

ACTION COMICS

モリのアサガオ

新人刑務官と或る死刑囚の物語

郷田マモラ

2



双葉社

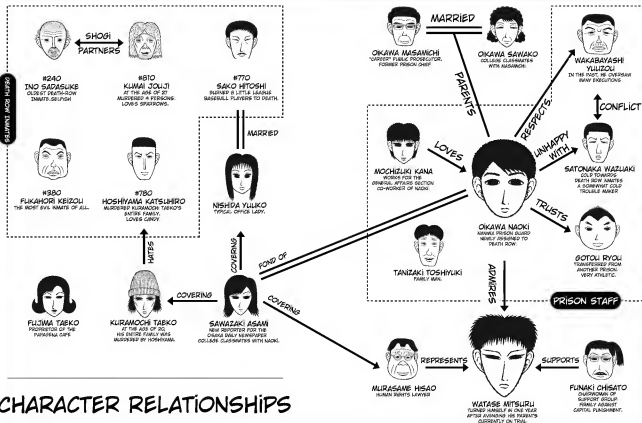
ACTION COMICS

MORI NO ASAGAO 2

*THE STORY OF A NEW PRISON GUARD
AND A CERTAIN DEATH-ROW INMATE.*

BY NAMORA GOLDA

FUTABASHA CO., LTD.



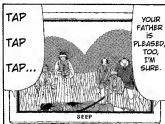
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EPISODE 11: AN OLD DEATH BOWER'S DREAM (PART ONE)



AVENGING THE MURDER OF ONE'S PARENT WAS CONSIDERABLE AND WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED.



DURING THE EDO PERIOD

IN A PERIOD DRAMA, ONE CAN EASILY TAKE REVENGE.



AND EVEN IF YOU MANAGED TO FIND HIM, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IT WAS YOU, THE WOULD-BE AVENGER, WHO ENDED UP BEING KILLED.



YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR ENEMY.



BUT BACK THEN THE METHODS OF CONSUMMATION WERE MORE LIMITED.

THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN CARRYING OUT REVENGE ON BEHALF OF THE WEALTHY ARISTOCRATS WHO WERE TOO INCOMPETENT TO DO IT THEMSELVES. THEY SAY IT CONTINUES EVEN TO THIS DAY.

ACCORDING TO ONE THEORY...



AND BY THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF THE MEIJI PERIOD, REVENGE HAD COME TO BE SEEN AS NOTHING MORE THAN MURDER.

SIX YEARS AFTER THE MEIJI RESTORATION, THE GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF MANY OF THE ADVANCED WESTERN COUNTRIES, OUTLAWED THE ACT OF TAKING REVENGE.



IT'S THE
PERSON GUARDS
ASSIGNED TO DEATH
ROW WHO SHOULD
THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

WHEN YOU
GET RIGHT
DOWN TO
IT...

BUT I THINK
WATASE IS SO
COOL FOR DOING
WHAT HE DID,
EVEN THOUGH HE
KNEW THAT HE
WOULD BE CHARGED
WITH MURDER.

AGAMI SAYS
THAT HE
REPRESENTS
SELFISHNESS
AND A RETURN
TO A MORE
BARBARIC
TIME.



THAT
WATASE
MITSURU
TOOK
MATTERS
INTO HIS
OWN
HANDS.

IT WAS
IN THIS
PERIOD,
AFTER
REVENGE
HAD
BEEN
OUT-
LAWED.



AND CALL
PRISON GUARDS
WHO PARTICIPATE
IN CAPITAL
PUNISHMENT
"MURDERERS."

THERE
ARE
EVEN
ORDINARY
PEOPLE
WHO
SPEAK
ILL OF
US...



ONE OF MY
SUPERIORS
HAS SAID HE'S
NOT SURE IT'S
NECESSARY
TO EXECUTE A
PERSON ONCE
THEY HAVE
REFORMED.

REGARDING
CAPITAL
PUNISHMENT...



AFTER ALL,
EVEN THOUGH IT'S
THE LAW AND IT
MAKES SENSE TO
HAVE IT, I'M AN
ACCOMPLICE
TO MURDER.

BESIDES, NO
MATTER WHAT,
I ALWAYS HAVE
NIGHTMARES
AFTER AN
EXECUTION.



I MYSELF
DIDN'T WANT
TO TAKE PART
IN AN EXECU-
TION, AND
WOULDN'T
HAVE IF IT
HAD BEEN
UP TO ME.



I SPARED HER
LIFE 7 YEARS
AGO BY SENDING
HER TO GO BUY
SOME FIRE-
WOOD.

BUT NOW I
HEAR SHE'S
TERMINALLY
ILL!



BUT...

I HAD
ASKED
NOT TO
PARTICIPATE
IN ANY
EXECUTIONS.



AND FILLED ME
WITH THE URGE
TO KILL HIM
RIGHT THEN
AND THERE.

HEARIN'S HOSHYAMA
KATELHERO, WHO
WAS SENTENCED TO
DEATH AFTER HE
MURDERED AN ENTIRE
FAMILY, NOT ONLY
REFLECT ON THE
ACCIDENT BUT
USE WORDS OF
UTTER CONTEMPT
FOR THE VICTIM'S
BETRAYED FAMILY
MEMBER SENT ME
INTO A RAGE...



IT IS OUR DUTY
AS PRISON GUARDS
TO DISPOSE OF
THESE HEINOUS
SCOUNDRELS
ONCE AND FOR ALL.

HER FAMILY WAS
MURDERED, AND SHE
COULDN'T EVEN TAKE
REVENGE. CAPITAL
PUNISHMENT IS
NECESSARY FOR
THE FAMILIES
OF THE VICTIMS,
TOO.





I'VE BEEN
LIVING IN
THIS HERE
POOR HOUSE
FOR NEARLY
3 YEARS
NOW...



HE GOT
ANGRY AND
TOOK A
DUMP ON
THE FLOOR
BECAUSE
THERE
WEREN'T
ANY DRIED
PLUMS IN
HIS OWNED
LAST
NIGHT.

GRAMPS...



WE'LL TRY AND
BE MORE CAREFUL
FROM NOW ON,
SO NO MORE OF
THESE LITTLE
JUVENILE PROTESTS,
OKAY?

SORRY, GRAMPS.
IT JUST SO
HAPPENS WE
RAN OUT OF
DRIED PLUMS
LAST NIGHT.



HONESTLY!
YOU MAY BE
YOUNG FELLAS,
BUT YOU ACT
LIKE A BUNCH
OF DAMN
SENILES!

AND EVEN
THOUGH I
TELL YOU
EVERY DAY
TO GIVE ME
DRIED PLUMS,
YOU STILL
FORGET!



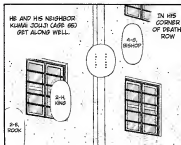
WHY AM I
HAVING TO
DO THINGS A
CARETAKER
WOULD FOR
A GUY WHO'S
NOT EVEN
FAMILY?

UGH!

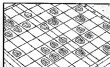


SINCE I'M THE
NEW GUY,
IT'S ALWAYS ME
WHO HAS TO
CLEAN UP
AFTERWARDS
AND I CAN'T
TAKE IT
ANYMORE!

YOUR
REALLY!



HE'S ALWAYS
PLAYING CHESS
WITH HIS ELDERLY
FRIEND INOKUMA KOSU.



HOWEVER, HE LOST
HIS JOB DURING THE
1973 OPEC OIL CRISIS
AND HAD TO LIVE
IN THE STREETS.



AFTER HIS WIFE
DIED OF ILLNESS,
HE RAISED HIS
SON BY HIMSELF.



IN HIS
YOUNGER
DAYS, INO
WAS A
CARPENTER.



AND WAS GIVEN
A GOOD BASHING
BY HIS OPPONENT
WHO WAS IN TOP
PHYSICAL CONDITION
AND HAD BEEN A
RUGBY PLAYER
AT ONE POINT
IN HIS LIFE.

HOWEVER,
HE WAS
DISCOVERED...



THE HOME
SEEMED TO
BE OWNED
BY SOME
FLASHY RICH
PERSON.
INO FELT
RESENTMENT
TOWARDS THEM
AND MADE
THEM HIS
TARGET.

ONE TIME,
HE BROKE
INTO A HOME
HE HIMSELF
HAD BUILT
TO ROB IT.





OH,
YOU WANT
ME TO LET
YOU GO,
BUT
BURGLARY?

**S
L
A
M
!!**

PLEASE
JUST
LET
ME
GO!!

I BEG
YOU...

PLEASE!
MY SON IS
STARVING
TO DEATH!



BUT WAS
ARRESTED
THE NEXT
DAY AND
SENTENCED
TO 12 YEARS
IN PRISON.

FEELING HIS LIFE
WAS IN DANGER,
IND FOUGHT BACK
AND WOUND UP
KILLING HIS
OPPONENT.

IND FLED...



AFTER BEING
RELEASED ON
PAROLE AT THE
AGE OF 54,
IND PAID A VISIT
TO HIS SON.





TOSHIYA...



I HAVE A NEW FAMILY NOW.
PROMISE ME
YOU WON'T COME TO
SEE ME ANYMORE.
YOU'RE JUST GOING
TO CAUSE TROUBLE.



YOU'VE
GOTTEN
SO
BIG,
TOSHIYA.

YOU'RE
BIG NOW,
AREN'T
YOU?



SO WE
CAN BE
TOGETHER
AGAIN.

FROM NOW ON
YOUR FATHER'S
GONE TO
WORK HARDER
THAN EVER
BEFORE...



I DON'T
WANT TO
HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
YOU EVER
AGAIN.



DO YOU
EVEN KNOW
HOW HARD IT
WAS FOR ME
WHEN I WAS
WITH YOU?

SOME
THINGS
CANNOT
BE UNDONE.



3 YEARS
LATER, HE
COMMITTED
MURDER
AGAIN.

AT AGE 66,
HE WAS
RELEASED.



WHEN
HE WAS
SIXTY,
HE WAS
CONFINED
TO 6 YEARS
FOR
ROBBERY.

AFTER
THAT,
HE WENT
ON
LIVING
BY
HIMSELF.

WHEN I
THINK OF
DNO, I
THINK OF
A WITHERED
MAN WHO
HAS NO
MORE
BLOOD
TO BLEED
AND NO
MORE
TEARS
TO CRY.

THIS WAS
HOW BLACK
DNO'S SOUL
HAD BECOME.



ONCE WHILE HE
WAS SLEEPING
IN THE STREETS,
AND A PASSERBY
STEPPED ON HIM,
HE BECAME FILLED
WITH RAGE AND THE
URGE TO KILL
THAT PERSON.



IF I'M SUCH A PAIN
IN THE ASS, WHY
DON'T YOU JUST
HURRY UP AND
KILL ME ALREADY?!

HEY, YOU
JACKASSES!

YOU
IDOTS!!



IT WAS
DECIDED THAT
DNO WAS
BEYOND HOPE,
AND HE WAS
SENTENCED TO
DEATH.

MAN IN A PRISON



NOT ONCE
HAS HE
RECEIVED A
VISITOR, AND
IT'S BEEN EATING
AWAY AT HIS
HEART.

ALSO,
IN THE
3 YEARS
HE HAS
BEEN ON
DEATH
ROW...



HE BEHAVES
SELFISHLY, DOES
WHATEVER HE
FEELS LIKE, ACTS
LIKE A CHILD, AND
GETS OUT OF HAND.

HE KNOWS THAT
HE'S OLD AND
THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT FOR HIM
IN THIS LIFE,
SO HE HAS NO
REASON TO
THINK ABOUT HIS
BEHAVIOR.







WA...
WAKABAYASHI?

AH, WELL
IT ALL
STARTED
WHEN
MR.
WAKABAYASHI
HEARD
GRAMPS
SAY
SOMETHING.



WHY DID HE
ORIGINALLY
START
FASTING?

UAAA...



SO WE WERE ABLE
TO TELL RIGHT AWAY
THAT HIS FASTING WAS
A FORM OF PROTEST.

HE WAS
ALWAYS
BITCHING AND
MOVING
ABOUT
WANTING
SWEETS
TO EAT.



HE
STARTING
FASTING.

ONE DAY,
ABOUT
8 MONTHS
AFTER
INDO HAD
COME TO
DEATH
ROW...



ア
ッ
!



SO PLEASE,
STOP THIS
FOOLISH
FASTING
BUSINESS,
OKAY?

I BOUGHT
YOU SOME
CAKE.



THERE WAS
A WELCOMING
PARTY, AND
EVERYONE
WAS TREATED
TO CAKE.

SO, WHILE WE
WERE THINKING
ABOUT WHAT
TO DO, THE
NEW CHIEF
ARRIVED.

EVEN SO,
WE COULDN'T
GIVE SPECIAL
TREATMENT
TO ANY OF
THE INMATES.





WAKABAYASHI
KNOWS THAT, TOO.
THAT PROBABLY WHY
HE LISTENED SO
CAREFULLY TO
THAT SELFISH INO.

IT'S OUR JOB
AS PRISON
GUARDS TO SEE
THAT THESE
INMATES ARE
ABLE TO LIVE
PEACEFULLY
UNTIL THEIR
SENTENCE IS
CARRIED OUT.



A LITTLE
MENTALLY
UNBALANCED.

BUT SOMETIMES
THE FASTING
CAUSES INO
TO BECOME...



NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
JUST A LITTLE
WHILE AGO
INO STARTED
FASTING...



THAT SEEMS
LIKE THE
KIND OF
THING
KIKU-
BAYASHI
WOULD DO.

AH,
I SEE.



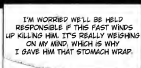
HE'S OLD.
HE COULD
BE IF HE
DON'T DO
SOMETHING,
RIGHT?

IT'S
BEEN
GONE
ON
FOR
TWO
DAYS
NOW.



DOES HE
WANT A
STOMACH
WRAP
OR
SOME-
THING?

LATELY HE HAS
BEEN GOING
ON ABOUT
HOW HIS
STOMACH HAS
GONE, SO...





I BOUGHT IT,
SO I CAN
LET YOU
BORROW IT
IF YOU
WANT.



JUST THE
OTHER DAY
GRAMP WAS
SAYING THAT
HE DIDN'T
LIKE GIRLS
WITH BIG
TITS.

THAT'S
NOT IT,
EITHER.



I FOUND A
MAGAZINE WITH
PHOTOS OF
SWIMSUIT
MODEL FUNAKO
STUFFED INSIDE
A BOOK IN
INO'S ROOM.

DO YOU
WANT TO
CHECK OUT
THE NEW
ISSUE?



WHY DO
WE HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT
THIS?



THEN...
WHAT THE HELL
DOES HE
WANT?!



WE'RE
PLAYING
RIGHT INTO
HIS HANDS.

YEAH, REALLY.



HAH...



IF WE JUST
LEAVE HIM ALONE,
HE'LL START PUTTING
JOAN BEFORE LONG.

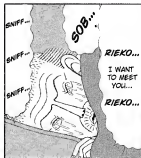
NOT ALL OF HIS
DEMANDS ARE SUCH
A BIG DEAL.

HEY,
GUY
MAKING
STUPID
SUG-
GESTIONS.
DIDNAH!

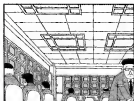
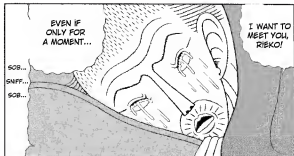


事、大抵、
240号機、毎日、大上電車の
7分、整りにした事、
女子生、大抵、大上電車の





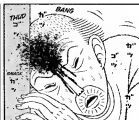






WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?!

WHA...



YOU JUST
DECIDED
TO LET ME
STARVE TO
DEATH.

BUT THIS TIME,
YOU PEOPLE DIDN'T
EVEN BOTHER TO
THINK ABOUT
WHAT IT WAS I
WANTED.

UNTIL
NOW,
WHEN-
EVER I'VE
FASTED,
MY
WISHES
HAVE
ALWAYS
COME
TRUE.



I'LL
BE ABLE
TO SEE
REKO.

IF I
DO
THIS...



HEAVENLY



ONE DAY
THERE
WON'T BE
ANY DOUBT
LEFT THAT
I DID THIS!

THIS IS
MY
DECISION.



DON'T THIS,
I'LL DEFINITELY
GET MY WISH.

SO I HAD TO
FIND A NEW
METHOD.

THESE INMATES
VIEW EVERY
SITUATION IN
TERMS OF
HOW THEY
CAN MANIPULATE
AND BENEFIT
FROM IT.



PRISON
LIFE
REVOLVES
AROUND
ROUTINE.



HE'S GONNA
KILL HIMSELF
IF HE
CARRIES ON
LIKE THIS.



BUT...
STILL...



IN THIS
CRAMPED
LITTLE
CELL, INO
HAS HIS
OWN LAW
THAT HE
DEVOTELY
BELIEVES IN.



IT'S LIKE
WHAT MR.
TANIZAKI
WAS
SAYING...

I'LL BE
ABLE TO
MEET MY
GRAND-
CHILD!



I KNOW I'LL
BE ABLE
TO SEE REIKO
IF I KEEP
DOING THIS.



I'LL LISTEN TO
WHATEVER YOU
HAVE TO SAY,
JUST PLEASE
STOP THIS
FOOLISHNESS!



UHHH... UHH...



OW!!!

YOU'RE
BOTHERING
ME, YOU LITTLE
SNOT-NOSED
PUNK!







MR. WAKABAYASHI...

YOU SURE SLEPT FOR A WHILE...

IT'S PAST 10 A.M.



I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET MY GRAND-GRANDP...

I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE RIKO IF I KEEP DOING THIS.



AND I THINK THAT MIGHT BE THE REASON HE'S FASTING.



MR. WAKABAYASHI, INO WANTS TO MEET HIS GRANDCHILD RIKO VERY BADLY.



MAYBE HE COULD TELL ME IF MY SUSPICION IS ACCURATE OR NOT.

AH...



IF SO, SHOULD WE TRY ASKING INO WHERE RIKO IS?

DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY CHANCE THAT IF INO WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO SEE HIS GRANDCHILD, HE MIGHT STOP FASTING AND HURTING HIMSELF LIKE LAST NIGHT?



WELL, UM... W...



HUNNY?



WHY WOULD YOU ENTERTAIN THE REQUEST OF A DEATH ROW CONVICT LIKE THAT?



WHEN I SAW HIS FACE LIGHT UP BECAUSE I HAD HELPED HIM OUT.

BUT EVEN THOUGH I'D COMMITTED DESPICABLE CRIMES,



AFTER BEING ASSIGNED TO DEATH ROW...



IT FELT AS IF I, TOO, HAD SOMEHOW BEEN HELPED.

I GOT TIRED OF DEALING WITH SUCH WICKED PEOPLE DAY IN, DAY OUT.



I SEE.

AH.



THANK YOU.

I LIKE TO TRY AND HELP NO OUT WHEN AND WHERE I CAN.



THAT'S WHY, ALBERT FOR SELFISH REASONS.



INGO KNEW
HIS SON'S
WHEREABOUTS,
DIDN'T HE?

AND EVEN
THOUGH
HE'S
NEVER
RECEIVED
SO MUCH
AS ONE
LETTER
FROM
HIM...

YES...BUT...
INGO'S SON CUT
TIES WITH HIM
LONG AGO...



NO WHY?!
HIS SON...
CAME TO
VISIT HIM
HERE?!



WHY?!

BUT 2 DAYS AGO,
AT LUNCHTIME,
HIS SON, WHO
HADN'T BEEN
INGO IN 18 YEARS,
ACTUALLY CAME
TO VISIT.



THAT'S
RIGHT.
YOU WORK
THE NIGHT
SHIFT,
SO YOU
PROBABLY
DIDN'T
KNOW.



WHY WOULD INGO'S
SON, WHO TURNED HIS
BACK ON HIS FATHER
SO LONG AGO,
SUDDENLY COME FOR
A VISIT?

BUT...

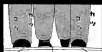


SO
THAT'S
HOW HE
KNEW
ABOUT
HIS
GRAND-
CHILD.

CAME TO
VISIT.

WOW...
SO HIS
SON...









ON THAT
FOOD,
THERE
WAS
BLOOD.



YOU
TREATED
ME TO
SOME
FOOD.

ONE WINTER
DAY, WHEN
I WAS
SUFFERING
FROM A
BAD COLD...



I HATED YOU
AND CALLED
YOU A
MURDERER.



I LEARNED
ABOUT THE
ROBBERY
AND THE
MAN YOU
KILLED.

AFTER
YOU WERE
TAKEN INTO
CUSTODY...



FORGET
ABOUT
THE
FATHER
WHO
WOULD
PUT
HIS
SON
THROUGH
SUCH AN
OP-
DEAL...

I
WANTED
TO
FORGET...





I CAN
SEE NOW
THAT YOU
WERE DOING
IT FOR ME.

I WALK AWAY
AT THAT TIME,
AND WHEN
YOU BROKE
INTO THAT
HOUSE...



I FINALLY
UNDER-
STOOD
THE
POSITION
YOU WERE
IN BACK
THEN.

THAT'S
HOW
I FELT
THEN,
BUT WHEN
I EVENTU-
ALLY MARRIED
AND HAD A
CHILD OF
MY OWN...



YOU...

TOSHIYA...



BUT TO
GO SO
FAR AS TO
KILL
SOMEONE,
DAD?

YOU WERE
WILLING TO
DO ANYTHING
TO ENSURE
YOUR SON'S
SURVIVAL...



WHO KNOWS
HOW MUCH
LONGER I
COULD'VE
GONE ON
LIVING LIKE
THAT BEFORE
I DIED.



IT OCCURRED
TO ME THAT
PERHAPS YOU
HAD DONE
THOSE
THINGS TO
HELP ME.

THE INSTINCT TO
PROTECT MY FAMILY
AT ALL COSTS
KICKED IN.

ONCE I
HAD A
CHILD OF
MY OWN,
AND BECAME
A PARENT...





WHEN I
CAME TO
VISIT,
THEY
WOULDN'T
LET ANYONE
OTHER THAN
ME IN
TO SEE
YOU.

I BROUGHT
HER HERE
WITHOUT
TELLING
MY FAMILY,
BUT...



LET ME
SEE
RIEKO!

LET ME
SEE MY
GRANDCHILD!

LET ME
MEET
HER!



WHY, AFTER ALL
THE TROUBLE HE
WENT THROUGH
TO BRING
HER HERE,
WASN'T SHE
ALLOWED IN
TO MEET INO?

WHY?!



WHAT?!



YOU CAN'T
MEET WITH
ANYONE
BUT YOUR
SON!

THE IMPRESSION
I'VE HAD
LATELY, FROM
THE FASTING
AND THE
REST OF IT,
IS THAT
HE'S EMOTIONALLY
UNSTABLE.

VISITATION
RULES ARE STRICT
IN ORDER TO ENSURE
EMOTIONAL
STABILITY AFTER
CONVICTS HAVE
BEEN SENTENCED.
NO EXCEPTIONS MADE,
NOT EVEN FOR A
FLESH-AND-BLOOD
RELATIVE!



SOB...

SNIFF...

SOB...

SOB...

SOB...



FORGET
ABOUT IT.

THE ORDERS
COME FROM
ABOVE, AND
THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO
ABOUT IT.



EVEN IF ONLY
FOR A MOMENT,
MR. WAKABAYASHI,
I WANT TO
SEE RIKKO!

I WANT
TO SEE
MY
GRAND-
CHILD!



I DON'T
KNOW,
OKAWA!



WHAT DOES
THAT HAVE
TO DO WITH
EMOTIONAL
STABILITY?

MR.
WAKABAYASHI,
WHY WOULD HIS
SON BE
PERMITTED TO
VISIT HIM
BUT NOT HIS
GRAND-
DAUGHTER?



THERE'S NO
WAY THAT
FLIMSY
EXCUSE "TO
ENSURE
EMOTIONAL
STABILITY"
COULD REALLY
LIMIT WHO
TWO CAN
MEET WITH

THERE'S
NO WAY...



THAT'S
ALL
THERE
IS TO
IT.

BUT INO'S
ATTEMPT
TO SEE HIS
GRANDP
BY CAUSING
US PRISON
GUARDS
A WHOLE
BUNCH OF
TROUBLE...
BACKFIRE.

OF THE STRANGE
FORCES RESIDING
IN THIS PRISON
DEEP IN THE
HURST OF THE FOREST,
NOR WAS I AWARE
OF THE MURDEROUS
INCORPUSCIBLES...

AT THAT
TIME, I
WASN'T YET
AWAKE...

HE WENT
ON TO
REPEAT
THAT.

NO MATTER
HOW MANY
OF HIS
CRIMES WERE
ORIGINALLY
COMMITTED
FOR HIS SON'S
SAKE...

THIS IS
WHAT I
THINK...

EVEN
SO...

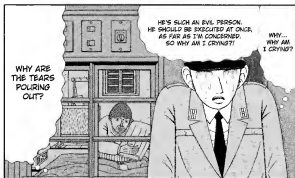
IN A
PRISON

I THINK
THAT I'D
NOT BEING
ABLE TO
SEE HIS
GRANDCHILD
IN HIS KOREAN
COSTUME BACK
HOMELAND.

EVIL PEOPLE
MUST BE EXERCISED
FOR THE SAKE OF
THOSE WHO CANNOT
WEIGH THEIR
LOVED ONES AS WELL.

IT IS BECAUSE
I SAW KURAMON
TALKED THAT I CAME
TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT THE DEATH
PENALTY
IS ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY.

THEN THERE'S
ALWAYS THE
NEGLIGENT FAMILY
MEMBER OF
THE VICTIM,
WHO CARRIES
THAT PAIN
WITH HER
EVERYWHERE
SHE GOES.



MORIASA REFERENCES, VOL. 2



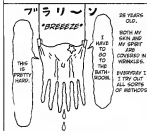
●FUNAKO

BORN 5/28/1985.

REAL NAME: FUNAKO SHUKA
ORIGIN: NAGANO PREFECTURE
BLOOD TYPE: B
BIKING MODEL.

IT IS SAID THAT SHE ACQUIRED
HER NAME FROM CATCHING CARS
FLUNG FROM SHIRAKI LANE
WHEN SHE WAS A POOR CHILD
GROWING UP. THIS HAS NOT
BEEN CONFIRMED.

#8 - GETTING RID OF WRINKLES



26 YEARS OLD.

BOTH MY SKIN AND MY SPIRIT ARE COVERED IN WRINKLES.

EVERYDAY I TRY OUT ALL SORTS OF METHODS.

MUCCHUGOROU'S FAVORITE THINGS

BY MUCCHUGOROU

HELLO, I'M ASSISTANT MUCCHUGOROU. TODAY I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY TOP 10 FAVORITE THINGS.



#7 - OVERPANTIES

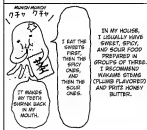


'BOING'

#10 - FANCY GOODS

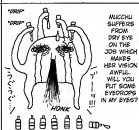


#6 - SNACKS IN THREES



IN MY HOUSE, I USUALLY HAVE SWEET, SPICY, AND SOUR FOOD PREPARED IN GROUPS OF THREE. I RECOMMEND WAKAME STEAM (CULLED FLAVORED) AND PRITZ HONEY BUTTER.

#9 - EYEDROPS



MUCCHU SUFFERS FROM DRY EYES ON THE JOB WHICH MAKES HER VISION AWFUL. WILL YOU PUT SOME EYEDROPS IN MY EYES?

#2 - MY DARLING

S M F
M M
O M
O A
C H
H

LOVELY,
LOVELY,
"I MISS YOU"
MUCCHU LOVES
DARLINGS, AND
OF COURSE
DARLINGS
LOVES MUCCHU.
HOW
EMBARRASSING!



#1 - MUCCHU'S FAMILY

MUCCHU,
ENTERTAIN
US.

MUCCHU,
PUT SOME
DRUMS ON.

I LOVE MY
FAMILY FROM
THE BOTTOM
OF MY HEART.
I GO BACK
HOME TO VISIT
OFTEN, AND
WHEN I DO,
I GET PAMPERED
LIKE A BABY.
I COULDN'T
LIVE WITHOUT
MY FAMILY.



MUCCHU, GIVE
SOME ALLOWANCE.

EACH AND EVERY ONE
OF THESE THINGS
GIVES ME STRENGTH
AND IS IMPORTANT
TO ME. WHAT ARE YOUR
FAVORITE THINGS.
I HOPE YOU CHIRISH
THEM.



#5 - MARTY'S DINNERS



MARTY MAKES
DINNER
FOR THE
GLUTTONOUS
MUCCHU.
I LIKE
LUNCH WITH
GARLIC
BOMBS THROWN
IN THE
BEST.

#4 - FLUFFY PERSIMMON BLANKET



ALL YEAR ROUND
I WRAP
MYSELF IN A BLANKET
WHEN I SLEEPS. IT HAS
TO BE
EXTRA FLUFFY
AROUND THE PART
THAT TOUCHES
MY MOUTH, OTHERWISE
IT'S NO GOOD.
LUCKY, I HAVE
PLENTY OF
MY BELOVED BLANKETS.

#3 MUCCHU'S FRIENDS



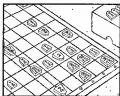
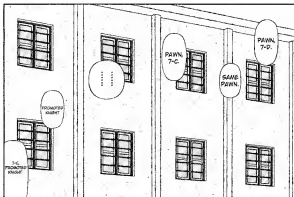
I MISS YOU...

I'M SO LONELY...

FRIENDS ARE
IMPORTANT TO
ALL OF US.
MY FRIENDS
ALWAYS GIVE ME
ENCOURAGEMENT.
I TREASURE THE
PHOTO ALBUM
I RECEIVED
WHEN I
WENT TO
TOKYO.

EPISODE 13 - I WANT TO BECOME A BIRD (PART ONE)







I'LL BE
ABLE TO
SEE MY
GRAND-
CHILD!

IF I KEEP
DOING THIS,
I'LL
DEFINITELY
BE ABLE TO
SEE MIKO.



SO JUST
HURRY UP
AND
SURRENDER
ALREADY!

EITHER WAY
I'M GOING TO
WIN.



BUT BECAUSE
OF HIS
BAD BEHAVIOR,
IT COULDN'T
BE HELPED.

ALTHOUGH
HE HAD BEEN
ALLOWED TO
VISIT WITH
HIS SON,
I FELT SORRY
FOR HIM NOT
BEING ABLE
TO SEE HIS
GRANDCHILD.



HE PLAYS
SHOOT WITH
HIS NEIGHBOR
ON DEATH ROW,
JUST AS HE
ALWAYS DID.

REALIZED HE
WASN'T GOING
TO BE ABLE
TO SEE HIS
GRANDCHILD
AND RETURNED
TO HIS NORMAL
ROUTINE.

THE NEXT DAY
ING, WHO HAD
PUT US ALL
THROUGH
SUCH HELL.



IT'S HIS
FAULT FOR
COMMITTING
MURDER AND
WINDING UP
HERE IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

THOUGH I
FIND IT HARD
TO UNDERSTAND
THE "EMOTIONAL
INSTABILITY"
LINE OF
REASONING
BEHIND MY
SUPERIOR'S
DECISION NOT
TO ALLOW
ING A VISIT
FROM HIS
GRANDCHILD,







MEOW

THESE PRISONERS WILL NEVER SEE THE OUTSIDE AGAIN.

WE PERMIT THESE KINDS OF SELFISH ACTS BECAUSE, UNLIKE THE PRISONERS WHO SOMEDAY RETURN TO SOCIETY,



EVERY TIME I SEE YOU YOU'RE SO CUTE!

HEH HE HE HE...

COME OVER HERE...

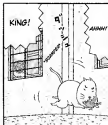


HERE, OTAYAN.



«BIO... KUNAI JOLU (AGED 80), LOVES "KING" THE SPARROW, WHO HE NAMED HIMSELF.

THERE ARE MANY PRISONERS WHO TAKE TO CARING FOR ANIMALS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE LONELINESS, SENSE OF ISOLATION, AND THE FEAR OF NOT KNOWING WHEN THEY WILL BE EXECUTED.



KING!

AAHHH



SO...



CHEEP



AH!



WHERE...
WHERE'D HE
GO?



"HEFF"
9"



SOMEBODY
HELP MY
KIND!

SOME-
BODY!



THIS
LITTLE
SPARROW
IS
INJURED!

AHH!



WHAT'S THE
BIG DEAL
ABOUT HIM
PICKING ON
LITTLE
SPARROW?

OTAYAN IS
ALWAYS
BRINGING HIS
"FINDINGS"
OVER TO
MY PLACE...

3682



!?

YOU'RE
IN CHARGE
OF THE
NEIGHBOUR
IN THE
GENERAL
AFFAIRS
SECTION



SO HIS
FLYING
PROBABLY
ISN'T TOO
WEEDED.

HE WAS
JUST
LIGHTLY
BITTEN.



MR.
OKAWA

AH.



APPARENTLY
THEY WEREN'T
ABLE TO
HAVE
CHILDREN.

KUMAI'S TOFU HOUSE

KUMAI
JOUJI'S
PARENTS
RAN A
TOFU
HOUSE
THAT
HAD
BEEN IN
THE FAMILY
FOR
GENERATIONS.

PUT THE
SAME AMOUNT
OF EFFORT
INTO RAISING
HIM AS
THEY DID
KUMAI.

BUT THEY
WERE OPEN
WITH KUMAI'S
BROTHER
ABOUT IT AND

OFTEN IN TV
DRAMAS,
THE PARENTS
KEEP THE
ADOPTION
SECRET
FROM THE
CHILD.

TWO YEARS
LATER,
THOUGH,
THEY
UNEXPECTEDLY
HAD KUMAI.

WORRIED
THAT THERE
WOULD
BE NO ONE
TO TAKE OVER
THE FAMILY
BUSINESS,
THEY DECIDED
TO ADOPT
A CHILD.



KUMAI AND HIS BROTHER
WERE RIVALS.

SO IT'S
ABOUT
WINING,
HURRY!

GO AHEAD
AND TRY.

THERE'S NO
WAY I'M
GOING TO
BE OUTDONE
BY MY
ADOPTED
BROTHER!!

I'M GOING
TO FOLLOW
IN DADDY'S
FOOTSTEPS
AND BECOME
THE BEST
TOFU CHEF
IN ALL OF
JAPAN!







USING THE
SAME
PISTOL,
HE SHOT
AND KILLED
A NIGHT
CLUB
SCHOOL
PROFESSOR
IN CHINA
PREFECTURE.

AND 6
YEARS
AFTER
THAT...

BUT 12 YEARS
LATER,
USING THE
PISTOL,
HE HAD
HUNG
ONTO FOR
ALL OF
THOSE YEARS,
HE SHOT AND
KILLED A
FASHION
PUBLISHER
EMPLOYEE
IN FUKUOKA
PREFECTURE.

KUAMI
WAS BUSY
TO CONCEAL
HIS
WHEREABOUTS.

HE NEVER
CAME UP
IN A
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION.

HE MANAGED TO AVOID
BEING CAUGHT FOR SO
LONG DUE TO THE FACT
THAT EVEN WHEN HE
DEVELOPED FEELINGS
FOR A GIRL, HE
WASN'T THE TYPE
TO MAKE IT PUBLIC,
AND BECAUSE HE
WENT UNNOTICED BY
EVERYONE AROUND HIM.

EVERY TIME A NEW RIVAL
APPEARED WITH THE GIRLS
HE LIKED, KUAMI WOULD
KILL HIM.

AND IN
SUCH NEW
TOWN HE
WENT TO,
IT SEEMED,
HE WOULD
FIND A
NEW GIRL
HE LIKED.

KUAMI
ALSO
MOVED
AROUND
FROM
PLACE
TO PLACE
IN ORDER
TO AVOID
BEING
CAUGHT.

SOONER
OR LATER,
AFTER THE
ACCIDENT,
THE GIRL
WOULD
LEAVE TOWN
DUE TO
SHOCK.

THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAD RUN OUT ON THE FIRST MURDER, BUT KIMU WAS BROUGHT TO COURT OVER THE OTHER THREE MURDERS AND, AT THE AGE OF 60, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

THEY TRACED THE WEAPON BACK TO THE OTHER MURDER.

THEN WHEN HE CLAIMED HIS FOURTH VICTIM IN NADA, PREFECTURE ONE SUMMER, HIS ALIBI HAVING BEEN THE SAME AS ALWAYS, HE WAS FINALLY ARRESTED AT THE AGE OF 62.

NOT LONG AFTER KIMU RECEIVED THE DEATH SENTENCE, HIS FATHER AND BROTHER DIED ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM FISHING.

THEY FORGOT ALL ABOUT THEIR SON AND WENT BACK TO SQUARE ONE...

THEY CHANGED THEIR NAME AND MOVED TO OKAYAMA PREFECTURE, WHERE, IN A TOWN NOBODY HAD EVER HEARD OF, THEY OPENED UP A TOFU HOUSE.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THINGS...

AFTER KIMU WAS ARRESTED, HIS FAMILY WAS CHASED OUT OF TOWN.

PLEASE FORGIVE YOUR MAMA!

FORGIVE MR. JOJO!

CAME TO VISIT HER SON IN PRISON FOR THE FIRST TIME.

KIMU'S MOTHER, NOW ALL ALONE,

BECAUSE
I WAS
SCARED.

I DIDN'T
STICK
UP FOR
YOU

IS BECAUSE I
DIDN'T STOP
YOUR FATHER
WHEN HE
KICKED YOU
OUT INTO
THE STREETS!

THE
REASON
YOU ENDED
UP LIKE
THIS...

THAT YOU
TURNED TO
SOMETHING
AS TERRIBLE
AS MURDER.

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOUR
MAMA
DIDN'T
LOOK
AFTER
YOU...

SOB...
SOB...

AND I
COULD
FINALLY
SEE YOU
AGAIN.

BUT YOUR
FATHER
FINALLY
DIED.

I WANTED TO
COME VISIT
YOU SOONER,
BUT COULDN'T
BECAUSE OF
YOUR
FATHER.

O
O
O
H
H
H
.
.
.

FOR GOD'S
SAKE,
PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME!

PLEASE...
PLEASE TRY
TO FORGIVE
YOUR
MISERABLE
MOTHER!



SOB...

SOB...



MAMA,
YOU'VE BEEN...

YOU'VE
BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
ME THIS
WHOLE
TIME?



L...

L...



IT BECAME
A RITUAL FOR
THEM TO SHARE
AND DISCUSS
ALL THAT HAD
TAKEN PLACE
IN EACH OTHER'S
LIVES THAT
MONTH.

FROM THAT
POINT ON,
HIS MOTHER
CAME TO VISIT
EVERY MONTH
WITHOUT
FAIL.



HE DID...
BUT NOW HE'S
SUCH A CALM
PERSON. HE TAKES
CARE OF SPARROWS,
PRAYS FOR HIS
VICTIMS, AND THINKS
LIKE THAT.

HE SEEMS
COMPLETELY
SPIRITUALLY
REFORMED.



MMA-
HMM.

SO THIS
KIDAI GUY
KILLED 4
PEOPLE?!

WOW.



SHE SEEMS
TO LOOK
FORWARD TO
THOSE
MONTHLY
VISITS WITH
HER SON
MORE THAN
ANYTHING ELSE.

AND THE MOTHER
EVEN WENT ON
TO RUN THE TOFU
HOUSE ALL BY
HERSELF AFTER
HER HUSBAND
AND ADOPTED SON
DIED IN THE
ACCIDENT.



HMM?

アル
アル
アル

YES,
BUT KUMAI
HAS A VERY
ZEALOUS
HEART!



KUMAI WAS
LIKE A
STALKER.

I'M ONLY
JUST NOW
REALIZING IT
AFTER BEING
TOLD, BUT...

IT'S
TRUE...



I WOULD BE
SCARED TO
DEATH IF
SOMEONE
DID THAT
TO ME!

EVEN WHEN
THERE WAS
A GIRL HE
LIKED, HE
WOULD ONLY
LOOK AT HER
FROM AFAR.
HE NEVER
SPOKE UP.



!?



4 LIVES
OVER THE
COURSE OF
DECADES...

THERE
WHEN HE
LEARNED
THERE WAS
A NEW
BOYFRIEND,
HE KILLED
THEM.





LEAVE IT
TO ME.

SURE
THING.



TELL HER THE NEW
PRISON GUARD
DID A GOOD JOB,
WOULD YA?



THERE
WOULDN'T
BE ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT
STATED IN
HIS FILE,
BUT IT
CONCERNS
ME.

WHY ON
EARTH DID
HE STALK
WOMEN, BUT
KILL ONLY
MEN?



WHY...
WHY IS
THERE THIS
POUNDING IN
MY CHEST?



THE
PECULIARITY
OF THOSE
MURDERS
IS WHAT
IS SO
TERRIFYING.

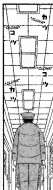
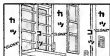
I'M
SCARED
OF THIS
MAN.

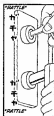


IS THERE
A PLACE
IN
KILMA'S
SOUL...

DARKER
THAN WE
AVERAGE
PEOPLE
COULD
EVEN
IMAGINE?







EPISODE 14 - I WANT TO BECOME A BIRD (PART 2)







WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
KUMA?



WHAT THE
HELL IS
THIS KUMA
JOLLY GUY
THINKING?

I MEAN,
WHAT DID
I DO?!



GET
BACK
IN
THERE!



ASH



WHATT?

WHA...



MR.
WAKA-
BANASH...

MR....



LET ME
OUT RIGHT
NOW!
LET ME
SEE MY
MOM OR
I'LL BREAK
THIS
BASTARD'S
NECK!

L...
LET
ME
OUT OF
HERE!



WHAT DO YOU
INTEND TO DO
ONCE YOU LEAVE
HERE, KUMA?



YOU JUST
KEEP
PERFECTLY
STILL,
OKAWA!

DONT
PROVOKE
HIM.



MOM
HAD LOST
A LOT OF
WEIGHT
LATELY.

MOM...



PROMISED?



I
PROMISED
MAMA...

I...



I COULD
ANY DAY
NOW AND
IT WOULDN'T
BE A SHOCK.

I'M OLD
MYSELF,
SO...



WHAT?



CHEER UP,
MOM!



WHEN YOU
DIE, MOM,
I'LL ARRANGE
YOUR FUNERAL.



MOM...



I CAN
GET A
RETRIAL...
MOST
GUYS
DO.

EVEN WITH
MY DEATH
SENTENCES,
IF I CAN
GET MY CASE
REVIEWED...



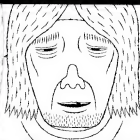
SO IF
I DON'T
ARRANGE
THE FUNERAL,
WHO WOULD?

I'M YOUR
ONLY
RELATIVE...



YES...
BUT YOU...

UNTIL THEN...
UNTIL THAT DAY,
DO ALL YOU
CAN TO KEEP
ON LIVING,
MOM!



THEN IF MY
APPEAL WENT
THROUGH AND
MY SENTENCE
WAS REDUCED,
I WOULD GIVE
YOU A FINE
FUNERAL AND
BE THE CHIEF
MOURNER.



KING!

DON'T DIE,
KING!



YOU REALLY
ARE SUCH A
KINDHEARTED
SON.

SOME...

THINK
THINK



I'M GOING TO
GO ON LIVING
UNTIL YOU COME
BACK HOME, SO...
THROW ME
A NICE FUNERAL.

I'M GOING TO LIVE
A LONG
TIME...



IT'S COME
TO THIS...

AND
YET...



LONG AGO,
I WATCHED
YOU CARE
FOR AN
INJURED
BABY
SPARROW...

AND I
SAW THAT
YOU WERE
A KIND
CHILD.





WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?!

THIS IS
A RISKY
SITUATION...

DAMN
IT...



WHAT DOES
IT MATTER
IF I KILL
THIS LITTLE
BRAT?!

I'M GOING
TO BE
EXECUTED
ANYWAY...



YOU'RE
CRAZY,
YUKIYASUHI!

HEN



HEH
HEH
HEH

BUT THAT
WOULD NEVER
WORK ON A
DEATH ROW
CONVICT WHO
KNOWS THAT
HE'S GOING
TO BE
EXECUTED
EITHER WAY.

THEN THE
CRIMINAL GETS
SCARED AND
RELEASES THE
HOSTAGES
WITHOUT A
FIGHT...

YOU SEE IT
ALL THE TIME
IN POLICE
MOVIES
WHERE THEY
THREATEN
THE CRIMINAL
AND TELL HIM
NOT TO "ADD
ANOTHER
CRIME TO THE LIST"...



OH
NO...



WHAT...
WHAT A HORRIBLE
THING FOR MR.
SATONAKA TO SAY...



HA
HA
HA

ONE GREEN ROOKIE
BEING TAKEN OUT
IS NO BIG DEAL...
WHADDYA SAY WE
ALL JUST TACKLE
AND RESTRAIN HIM?









DIRECTOR OF
CORRECTIONS









KUMAI WAS ACTUALLY PICTURING HIS MOTHER WHEN HE LOOKED AT THEM.

IN THE CASE OF EACH AND EVERY ONE, HE BECAME FOND OF...



I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, MOM. THAT'S FOR CERTAIN.

SO THEN WHEN I WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE, IT HIT ME...



HE MUST HAVE FELT THAT HIS BROTHER, WHO WASN'T EVEN RELATED TO HIM BY BLOOD, HAD STOLEN HIS MOTHER AWAY FROM HIM. DON'T YOU THINK?

HOWEVER, WHEN HE WAS KICKED OUT OF HIS HOME AT THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN,



I THINK HIS MOTHER WAS THE ONLY PERSON HE FELT HE COULD EVER SHOW HIS VULNERABLE SIDE TO.

KUMAI WAS OVERSHADOWED BY HIS BROTHER AS A CHILD, AND HE STRAYED FROM THE RIGHT PATH... HIS MOTHER WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER STUCK UP FOR HIM.



CONTINUED TO SEEK OUT HIS MOTHER'S IMAGE...

AND SO KUMAI, IN HIS SOLITUDE,



IT'S BECAUSE HIS MOTHER WAS HIS ONLY ELITE...

THAT HE WAS SO FOND OF HER, I THINK.

IT WOULD REMIND
HER OF HIS
MOTHER BEING
TAKEN AWAY FROM
HER WHEN HE
WAS 16. AND
SORROW WOULD
WELL UP INSIDE
HIM.



BUT ANYTIME
HE FOUND
OUT THAT THE
GIRL HAD A
BOYFRIEND,



THAT'S WHY
ALL HE EVER
DID WAS GAZE
LONGINGLY
AT GIRLS
FROM AFAR.



FOR STEALING
HIS MOTHER
FROM HIM



NEVER IN
HIS MIND,
HE WAS
TAKING
REVENGE
AGAINST
HIS MOTHER...

AND I THINK
HE MUST
HAVE
SNAPPED.

THAT FEELING
OF LONGING
BECAME RAGE.



IT FOLLOWS
THAT HE
WOULD HAVE
STALKED THE
BOYFRIENDS,
NOT THE
WOMEN.



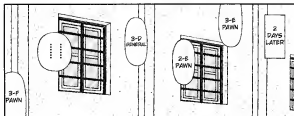
IF WE ASSUME
THAT, TO KUNAI,
THE WOMEN
REPRESENTED
HIS MOTHER.





BECAUSE I, TOO, HAD A FATHER WHO WAS HARSH AND A MOTHER WHO WAS KIND...









I WONDER WHAT
HAPPENED TO HIM...
HE ALWAYS DROPS
BY KUMA'S WINDOW...



I HAVEN'T SEEN
KING THE POISON
ALL MORNING...

HUNNY?



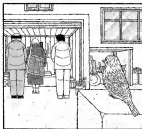
HE'S
GONE.

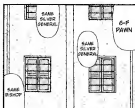
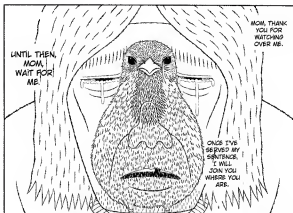
KING, WHO YOU COULD
ALWAYS FIND IN THE
HOOKS AND CRANES
OF THAT SHOGI
BOARD, HAS BEEN
RELEASED.



TO THE
FUNERAL...

HE'S ON
HIS WAY...





THINKING
ABOUT THE
REOCCURRING
INCIDENTS
INVOLVING
THESE TWO
OLD DEATH
ROWERS,
NOT TO
MENTION
WHAT I
HAD GONE
THROUGH
WITH THEM.



ONE WILL DIE
NEVER HAVING
MET HIS
GRANDCHILD.
THE OTHER
WILL DIE
NOT HAVING
BEEN ABLE TO
ATTEND HIS
OWN MOTHER'S
FUNERAL...
UNTIL THEN,
THEY GO ON
LIVING.

THERE ARE
2 OLD
DEATH ROWERS
IN HERE...
BOTH ARE
SCHEDULED
TO BE
EXECUTED.

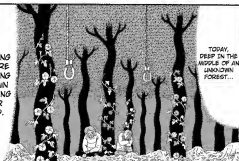


THAT EACH AND
EVERY DEATH ROW
CONVICT HAD THEIR
OWN INCREDIBLE,
SPECIAL STORY
TO TELL.



I SOMEHOW
FELT AS
IF I SAT
THERE IN
THAT LITTLE
PATCH OF
SUN...

TWO MORNING
GLORIES ARE
JUST PLAYING
SHOGI AGAIN
AS IF NOTHING
HAD EVER
HAPPENED.



TODAY,
DEEP IN THE
MIDDLE OF AN
UNKNOWN
FOREST...

MORIASA REFERENCES, VOL. 3

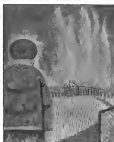
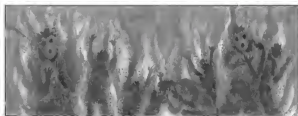
● OTAYAN

FIRST APPEARED IN *SOLOVING* EARLY WORK.
LIVES AROUND ROOT FURUJI DISTRICT IN OGAKA.
OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A DOG.
A BIT SAD.



EPISODE 15 - THE WOMAN MARRIED TO A PRISONER OF WAR









A FIRST-YEAR LITTLE LEAGUERS WHO HAD BEEN DOING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE IN THE STORAGE FACILITY AT A SUBURBAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AFTER TEAM PRACTICE WERE BURNED TO DEATH.

I REMEMBER THAT LATE AUTUMN DAY A YEAR AGO AS IF IT WAS YESTERDAY.



FINALLY HE FORGOT REMORSE THAT HE HAD READY DOWN THROUGH THE VENT OPENING AND LIT A FLARE.



THE HE CRANKED THE DOOR SHUT FROM THE OUTSIDE.

THE CRIMINAL WHO SET THE FIRE WATCHED AND WAITED UNTIL THE SENIOR TEAM WENT HOME.



SANO HIROSHI, WHO LIVED IN A NEARBY APARTMENT, WAS ARRESTED.

TWO DAYS LATER... BASED ON WITNESS TESTIMONY AND OTHER THINGS...



NO ONE WAS ABLE TO PREVENT THE CRIME FROM HAPPENING.

BECAUSE THE LITTLE LEAGUES STORAGE FACILITY WAS SEPARATED FAR FROM THE REST OF THE SCHOOL.



SARUME POLICE STATION

SAKO HAD
PLAYED
LITTLE
LEAGUE
BASEBALL
IN THE
PAST.

JUST LIKE
ME AND THAT
DEMON OF
REVENGE
WATASE
MITSURU.



SEEING AS
THEY HAD
PRACTICED SO
HARD.

IT WAS
ME THAT
DID IT.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



WHEN HE WAS
IN JUNIOR HIGH,
HE JOINED THE
BASEBALL TEAM,
THINKING IT MIGHT
LOOK GOOD ON
HIS FUTURE RECORD.

IT WASN'T
SO MUCH
FOR SAKO.

SAKO WAS BORN
AND RAISED IN
A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD.
AND WHILE IT'S EVERY
LITTLE BOY'S DREAM
TO SOMEDAY
BECOME A PRO
BASEBALL PLAYER,



DIDN'T
BOTHER
SAKO ALL
THAT MUCH.

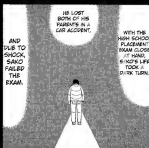
HOWEVER,
THE FACT
THAT HE
HAD AN
ALTER
ALIBI...



WHO WASN'T
GOOD WITH
HIS STUDIES.

SAKO
ALTERNATED
ON THIRD
BASE WITH
HIS CLASSMATE.





AND DUE TO SHOCK, SAKO FAILED THE EXAM.

HE LOST BOTH OF HIS PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT.

WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM CLOSE AT HAND, SAKO'S LIFE TOOK A DARK TURN.



AND HAD NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD GET INTO A FIRST-RATE HIGH SCHOOL, THEN COLLEGE, AND GO ON TO BE A SUCCESS IN LIFE.

でもこれ!!
滑りも高校

THIS WAS BECAUSE SAKO BELIEVED IN HIMSELF...



WAS MAKING AN ANNUAL SALARY OF OVER \$1 MILLION, AND HAD BECOME A FAMOUS ATHLETE.

MEANWHILE, SAKO'S CLASSMATE AND THIRD BASE ALTERNATE HAD JOINED THE MAJOR LEAGUES.



UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THE LOSS OF HIS PARENTS,



SAKO WENT FROM JOB TO JOB...



THIS ISN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR ME!



WHY IS THAT IDIOT MAKING A \$1 MILLION SALARY WHILE I'M BARELY SCRAPPING BY ON \$8,000 A YEAR?!

THAT BASTARD



SAKO CURSED
HIS OWN
LIFE.

WHO...
WHO AM I...?



IN HIS RAGE,
HIS FOCUS
TURNED
TOWARDS
THE LOCAL
JUNIOR HIGH
LITTLE LEAGUE
TEAM, WHERE IT
HAD ALL BEGUN.

AT THE
AGE OF
32,
HE WAS
FIRED
FROM
HIS JOB
FOR THE
28TH TIME...



SAKO CAME
UNDER HEAVY
FIRE FROM
THE REST
OF SOCIETY.



I WAS HOPING
TO BURN A FULL
TEAM OF NINE...

HEH

A LITTLE
FRESHMAN
BUT



WERE
MURDERED.

IN ONE
MOMENT,
8 BOYS
WHO LOVED
BASEBALL
WITH A
PASSION...



NO ONE WILL EVER
KNOW JUST HOW MUCH
SORROW WAS
FELT BY THE LOVED
ONES WHO WERE LEFT
BEHIND...



NO ONE
WILL EVER
KNOW JUST
HOW MUCH
PAIN AND
SUFFERING
WAS CAUSED...

8 THIRTEEN
YEAR-OLD
BOYS WHO HAD
SUCH LIMITLESS
POTENTIAL AND
THEIR WHOLE
LIVES AHEAD
OF THEM...



I WAS A
LITTLE BIT
DIFFERENT.

BUT I...



TO UNDERSTAND
THE GRUESOME
CRIME AND THE
MOTIVE BEHIND
IT.

EVERYONE
PAINFULLY
STRUGGLED...



BUT I HAD TO FACE
REALITY WHEN I HIT MY
GROWTH PEAK, AND
IN MY JUNIOR YEAR OF
HIGH SCHOOL, I QUIT.

AFTER ALL, I
MYSELF HAD
DREAMED OF
BECOMING
A PRO BASEBALL
PLAYER ONE
DAY.



BUT SOMEHOW
I WAS ABLE TO
UNDERSTAND THE
HARDEST EMOTION
AT THE ROOT
OF IT ALL.

AS A HUMAN
BEING, I
COULD NEVER
FORGIVE SAKO'S
FOR WHAT HE
DID.



HE BEARS A GRUDGE
AGAINST HIS
BOYHOOD SELF
FOR NOT HAVING
TAKEN BASEBALL
MORE SERIOUSLY.

BUT IN
SANO'S
CASE,

BECAUSE I TRIED
IN MY OWN WAY,
I DON'T REALLY
HAVE ANY REGRETS.

BUT
BECAUSE
I TRIED...

AND THAT
LED HIM TO
EVENTUALLY
COMMIT
THE CRIME.

BUT JUDGING FROM
HIS OWN WORDS,
I WOULD GUESS
THAT SANO'S
WARRIOR THOUGHTS
ABOUT LIFE MORPHED
INTO A HATRED OF
KIDS WHO PLAY
BASEBALL.

ACADEMICS
HAVE ALL
SORTS OF
THEORIES
AS TO WHY
HE DID IT...

SEEMS AS THEY
PRACTICED SO HARD!

WHATEVER IT IS,
DEEP DOWN AT
THE ROOT
OF IT ALL,
I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
UNDERSTAND.

STILL, HOW
ON EARTH
COULD HE
HAVE
BROUGHT
HIMSELF
TO DO
SOMETHING
THAT
GRUESOME?







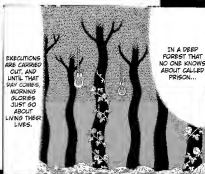
BUT I'M NOT
SCARED
ANYMORE.

SURE, I WAS
KNOCKED
UNCONSCIOUS
AND NEARLY
KILLED...



AND THAT
CAUSED MY
FEAR OF
DEATH HOW
CONCRETE
TO FEEL.

I REALIZED
THAT IN
THEIR THERE
REMAINED
SOME
HUMAN
EMOTIONS.



EXECUTIONS
ARE CARRIED
OUT, AND
UNTIL THAT
DAY COMES,
MORNING
GLORIES
JUST GO
ABOUT
LIVING THEIR
LIVES.

IN A DEEP
FOREST THAT
NO ONE KNOWS
ABOUT CALLED
PRISON...



IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
SMACK DAB
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE FOREST.

PRISON...?



THEN WE HAD
THAT FIGHT AND
BROKE UP.
THAT WAS
ALREADY
A MONTH AGO...



IN THE MIDDLE
OF OUR DATE,
I WAS SUDDENLY
APPROACHED
BY A VICTIM



THAT'S RIGHT!
I WONDER
WHAT HAPPENED
TO ASAM
AFTER THAT...

!!



I'M DYING TO KNOW, SO...

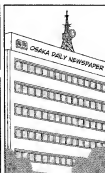


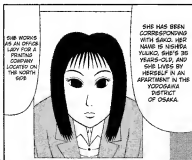
ASAKI...
GIVING ME A HARD TIME LIKE THAT...

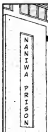
WHO CAN I CALL...?



I DRAGGED HIM AROUND...









THERE ARE MANY
EXAMPLES OF
PRISONERS
MARRYING IN
THE PAST.

YEAH,
REALLY...



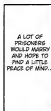
THAT'S
PRETTY
WILD,
HUH?



THIS WILL BE
HER FIRST TIME
MEETING SAKO
FACE-TO-FACE?



WAIT, SO YOU'RE
SAYING THAT THIS
GIRL'S DECISION TO
MARRY SAKO WAS
BASED SOLELY
ON THE LETTERS
HE AND SHE
EXCHANGED WITH
EACH OTHER?



A LOT OF
PRISONERS
WOULD MARRY
AND HOPE TO
FIND A LITTLE
PEACE OF MIND...



TO ALLEVIATE
SOME OF THAT
STRESS THEY
FELT, EVEN
IF ONLY
A SMALL
AMOUNT...



IT HAPPENED ALL
THE TIME WITH
PRISONERS WHO
RECEIVED THE
MOST SEVERE
SENTENCE AND HAD
NO IDEA WHEN
THEY WOULD
BE EXECUTED.



WHAT DO YOU
THINK THE
KISHIDA FILMS
GIRL'S DEAL IS?

I'M SURE
IT
HAPPENS,
BUT...



THERE HAVE
BEEN MANY
CASES IN
WHICH THE
GIRL
COORDINATES
THE MARRIAGE
WITH THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD.

BECAUSE THE
VISITATION
ROOMS ARE
STRICT FOR
DEATH ROW
CONVICTS,

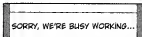


HA HA HA

YOU MEAN WHY
CAN'T SHE JUST
FIND A NORMAL
GUY TO BE
WITH?













MY NAME IS SANAZAKI AND I'M WITH THE OSAKA DAILY PAPER.



WHAT KIND OF PERSON IT TAKES TO MARRY AN EVIL MONSTER LIKE SAKO!

IT'D LIKE TO ASK HER...



PHEW.



LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE... THERE'S A SHORTCUT OVER HERE.

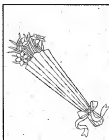


I HAVE TO GET HER TO TRUST ME BEFORE I CAN INTERVIEW HER.

OH... SHE'S TERRIFIED.



THIS IS THE BOUQUET MS. NISHIDA HAD WHEN SHE TRIPPED.



WHAT THE...?



!?



WHY DIDN'T
SHE GIVE THEM
TO HIM DURING
THEIR VISIT?



WERE THESE
FLOWERS
MEANT FOR
SAKAO?
IF SO...



WHAT IN THE
WORLD KIND
OF UPRISING
DID SHE HAVE?

I WONDER...



WHY, AGAIN,
WOULD SHE
CHOOSE TO
MARRY SUCH
A MONSTER?

SHE SEEMED
LIKE SUCH
A QUIET,
ORDINARY
GIRL...



YOU AND MS.
NISHIDA SHARE
THE SAME
HOMETOWN?

WHAT?



I WAS SHOCKED
WHEN I HEARD
FROM MY PARENTS
THAT SAKO
HITOSHI'S WIFE
WAS FROM
A NEIGHBORING
TOWN.

I'M GOING
BACK HOME
TO VISIT FUKUI
PREFECTURE
THIS WEEKEND,
BUT...



THE ANSWER
TO MY
QUESTION
CAME FROM
A VERY
UNLIKELY
PLACE...

1
WEEK
LATER



IT SEEMS
YULUKO'S
MOTHER
PUT UP WITH
IT EVERY TIME
HER FATHER
HAD AN
AFFAIR.

BUT HER
FATHER
CHEATED
ON HER
MOTHER.



YULUKO WAS BORN
ON A CHICKEN FARM
THAT WAS FAMOUS,
EVEN IN MY TOWN.



SO KINDHEARTED WAS
SHE SHE HELD A MEMORIAL
SERVICE FOR THOSE
CHICKENS EVERY SINGLE
DAY AFTER THAT
WITHOUT FAIL UNTIL
SHE GRADUATED
HIGH SCHOOL.

ONCE WHEN
YULUKO WAS
A CHILD
SOME BRATS
SET FIRE TO
HER FAMILY'S
CHICKEN
COOP AS A
CRUEL
PRANK...



YULUKO WAS
SEEN AS A
KINDHEARTED
CHILD.



SHE
STUBBORNLY
IGNORED
THEM.

THAT'S WHY WHEN
YULUKA MARRIED
A CONVICTED FELON
HER ENTIRE FAMILY
GATHERED TO
FIRMLY OPPOSE THE
MARRIAGE.



IT SEEMS
HE COULDN'T
WAIT FOR
HER TO GROW
UP AND
BECOME A
GOOD WIFE.

HER FATHER, WHO
LOVED TO FOOL
AROUND WITH
WOMEN,
ABSOLUTELY
ADORED HER.



REALLY...?







MORIASA REFERENCES, VOL. 4



● KAWABE CHIEKO

VOCE TALENT WHOSE PRODUCER IS
HOLLYWOOD'S STOP-BROTHER TAKUYUKI
DOYUGO.

CHARISMATIC MODEL IN YOUTH FASHION
MAGAZINES.

HER DEBUT ALBUM *ENDLESSNESS* IS
AVAILABLE NOW.

HAS BEEN A REGULAR ON KAKEI YOSHIKI
SHOT TO *EMERAC JEWELRY* SINCE 4/1/2008.

OFFICIAL FAN CLUB *CRYSTAL VELVET* CLUB
IS RECRUITING MEMBERS!!

EPISODE 18 - THE WOMAN WHO MARRIED A PRISONER (PART TWO)



THERE'S NOTHING PARTICULARLY INTERESTING ABOUT ME, AND I WANTED SOCIETY TO MAKE ME THE CENTER OF ATTENTION FOR ONCE.

THE REASON
I MARRIED A
DEATH ROW
PRISONER IS
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO
BECOME
FAMOUS.

WHO KNEW THAT
MY ASSESSMENT
WOULD BE THIS
ACCURATE?
SHE REALLY
SEEMS LIKE
THE PERFECT
GIRL FOR A
DEATH ROW
CONVICT.

IT'S JUST LIKE
YOU SAID, MR.
GOTOW...

SHE ONLY
MARRIED GAKO
TO GET
ATTENTION.

IT'S JUST LIKE
YOU SAID, MR.
GOTOW...

SHE ONLY
MARRIED GAKO
TO GET
ATTENTION.

人間になつた
(Homo Sapiens)

**WANTED TO RECOVER FAMOUS...
THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA**





I'M
HELPING
THAT
PERSON.

I'M...



WHY ON
EARTH DOES
SHE BRING
THE FLOWERS?

YOU'D THINK
THAT SHE
WOULD BE
BRINGING
THE FLOWERS
TO GIVE TO HER
HUSBAND
SAKO...



WHAT
COULD
IT BE?



THERE'S
SOMETHING
MORE TO
THIS!

I CAN'T IMAGINE
THAT THE ONLY
REASON NISHIDA
YUKINO MARRIED
SAKO WAS TO
BECOME FAMOUS.



!!



....

....

....

....



NISHIDA
YUKINO
WATCHED
HER MOTHER
PUT UP
WITH THE
FACT THAT
HER HUSBAND
CHEATED ON
HER WITH
OTHER
WOMEN

THE
WHOLE
TIME
GROWING
UP...



MAYBE
REVENGE
OR
SOME-
THING?

MAY-

AND THAT HER
DECISION TO
MARRY A DEATH
ROW CONVICT
HAD BEEN HER
OWN UNIQUE
WAY OF TAKING
REVENGE AGAINST
HER FATHER?



COULD IT BE
THAT NISHIDA
YUKIO STILL
BORE A
GRUDGE AGAINST
HER FATHER
FOR HIS
SELFISHNESS...



THEN SURELY
THERE COULD
ALSO BE INDIRECT
METHODS OF
REVENGE,
LIKE THIS.

IF THERE
WERE DIRECT
METHODS
OF REVENGE,
LIKE IN THE
CASE OF
MITSURU
WATASE...

THAT STILL
DOESN'T
EXPLAIN THE
FLOWER
BOUQUET
OR WHAT
SHE SAID.

NAH



WHAT IS
THIS?...
WHY DO I
FEEL THIS
WAY...



WHY THE
HELL WOULD
SHE MARRY
SOMEONE
LIKE SAKO?



IF SHE WANTED
TO BECOME FAMOUS,
WOULDN'T IT HAVE
MADE MORE SENSE
FOR HER TO
JUST EXIT FROM
THE FRONT AND
DELIVER HER
STATEMENT TO
THE MASS MEDIA?

WHEN I SAW
NISHIDA YUKIO
AFTER SHE HAD
SMUCK AROUND
THE BACK OF
THE PRISON AND
I INTRODUCED
MYSELF, SHE WAS
FRIGHTENED...



DOES THAT MEAN
THAT THERE'S
SOME MOTIVE
BEHIND IT ALL
THAT SHE
DOESN'T WANT
ANYBODY TO FIND
OUT ABOUT?

ASSUMING
SHE WAS
LYING...



WAS SHE
LYING TO
ME WHEN
WE TALKED?

I ENDED UP
WRITING AN
EMOTIONAL
ARTICLE.
BUT...



AND MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT
LED TO HER
MARRYING
SOMEONE
AS EVIL
AS SAKO!

MAYBE THERE
WAS SOME
TRAUMATIC
EVENT THAT
HAPPENED
TO HER IN
A PAST RELATION-
SHIP...



PERHAPS
SOME SORT
OF TRAUMA?!





BUT IT WAS LATER
REPORTED ON THE
NEWS THAT YAMASHITA,
WHO HAD RACKED UP
A LOT OF DEBT, HAD
COMMITTED SUICIDE AT
AGE 23 BY JUMPING
FROM THE ROOF OF
A BUILDING IN OSAKA.

AFTER THAT,
NO ONE
KNEW THEIR
WHERE-
ABOUTS....



AFTER HAVING
CAUSED NOTHING
BUT PROBLEMS
FOR EVERYONE,
INCLUDING CHILDREN,
YAMASHITA AND HIS
FATHER FINALLY
LEFT TOWN.



REALLY?

SHE WAS SO DEVASTATED
THAT SHE STAYED HOME
FROM WORK FOR 3 DAYS.

WHEN YUKIKO
HEARD THE
NEWS, SHE
BROKE DOWN
AND CRIED.

BUT AT THE
TIME, EVERYONE
WAS SURPRISED
BY YUKIKO'S
REACTION.



THAT WAS
12 YEARS
AGO
ALREADY.



SHE HAD
BARELY
EVEN
KNOWN
AS A
CHILD!!

NISHIDA YUKIKO
FELT SUCH
DEEP SORROW
FOR A BOY...



YUKIKO STILL
FELT SADNESS
AND CRIED
FOR HIM.

THAT'S HOW
KINDHEARTED
SHE WAS.



THOUGH THE
PERSON WHO
DIED WAS
SOMEONE
WHO HAD
BULLIED HER,
TORTURED HER,
AND HAD EVEN
GONE SO FAR
AS TO BURN
DOWN HER
CHICKEN COOP,



THAT DOESN'T
AT ALL SOUND LIKE
THE KIND OF GIRL
WHO WOULD
MARRY A DEATH
ROW CONVICT SIMPLY
BECAUSE SHE
WANTED TO
BECOME FAMOUS.

BUT
THAT...

THERE MUST
BE SOME
OTHER REASON
WHY SHE
MARRIED A
PRISONER.

ALL I CAN
THINK IS
THAT SHE
WAS LYING
TO ME.

ILY NEWSPAPER

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

BUT EVEN
IF I TRY TO
CONTACT
HIM, HE'LL
JUST IGNORE
ME.

I'D LIKE TO
GET NAO'S
TALK ON IT.

THIS
THEORY
OF
MINE...

IT'S NAOKI!

IT'S...

OHANA NAOKI



NAD, I
WAS JUST
THINKING
THE SAME
THING...



LET ME
GO FIRST!



SOME...

SOMETHING
I
REALLY
WANT
YOU
TO
HEAR...

I READ THE
NISHIDA YUKIO
ARTICLE AND
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT.

AH,
ASAMI?



WELL...



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

HUH??



I SEE...

NOW I
UNDERSTAND
THE REASON
BEHIND THE
FLOWER
BOUQUETS.



IT NEVER
OCCURRED TO
ME THAT SHE
WAS BRINGING
THE FLOWERS
FOR SOMEONE
OTHER THAN
SAKO.

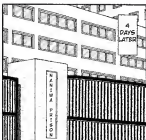
I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
IT AT ALL,
EITHER.



SHE ALWAYS
TAKES THE
BOUQUETS
WITH HER
WHEN SHE
LEAVES
AFTER A
VISIT?

REALLY?







WHY HAVE
YOU COME
HERE?!

WHY...



YOU'VE BEEN
BRINGING
FLOWERS
TO THE
SPOT WHERE
YAMASHITA
JUMPED TO
HIS DEATH
12 YEARS
AGO, HAVEN'T
YOU?

JUST AS I
THOUGHT...
IT WAS YOU
WHO SET FIRE
TO YOUR
FAMILY'S
CHICKEN
COOP...



YOU ALWAYS
TOOK THE FLOWER
BOUQUETS BACK
WITH YOU AFTER
VISITING THE
PRISON, WHICH
GAVE ME THE IDEA
THAT YOU MIGHT
BE BRINGING THEM
HERE.

I CHECKED THE
ARTICLES FROM
THAT TIME,
AND REALIZED
THAT THE
SPOT WHERE
YAMASHITA
HAD COMMITTED
SUICIDE WAS
NEAR NANINA
PRISON.



WE DON'T BELIEVE
THAT THE REASON
YOU MARRIED A
PRISONER WAS
TO BECOME FAMOUS.

AND
NOW...





THE FAMILY
BUSINESS
WOULD GO
UNDER, AND
MY FATHER
WOULD BE
TOO BROKE
TO GO ON
HAVING
AFFAIRS.

IN MY CHILDISH MIND,
I THOUGHT THAT IF
I GOT RID OF THE
CHICKEN COOP...

MY FATHER
HAVING HIS
AFFAIRS, AND
MY MOTHER
BEARING IT ALL
IN SILENCE HAD
CREATED SUCH A
DEPRESSING
ATMOSPHERE
IN OUR HOME.
I HATED IT.



I REALIZED
WHAT AN
AWFUL THING
I HAD DONE.

WHEN I
HEARD THE
VOICES OF
CHICKENS
DYING IN
AGONYING
PAIN...



SEBIAL
SEBIAL
SEBIAL



HE HAD
ACTUALLY
SEEN ME
DO IT.



WHEN THE
WHOLE TOWN
WAS IN
A FRENZY
LOOKING FOR
THE CRIMINAL
WHO HAD
BURNED DOWN
MY FAMILY'S
CHICKEN COOP...
YAMASHITA
COVERED
FOR ME.

I BURNED
DOWN THE
CHICKEN
COOP.

IT REAS
ME.



I WAS TOO SCARED
TO TELL ANYONE
WHAT I HAD DONE.



AND THAT
SOMEDAY
WE MEET
AGAIN AND
I HAVE A
CHANCE TO
THANK HIM
FACE-TO-
FACE.

I PRAY
THAT HE
LIVE A
HAPPY,
HEALTHY
LIFE...

EVEN LONG
AFTER
YAMASHITA
HAD LEFT
TOWN.

IT WEIGHED
ON MY
CONSCIENCE...



THE PAIN OF
KNOWING I
WOULD NEVER
BE ABLE TO
REPAY HIM
FOR HIS
KINDNESS
TORMENTED
ME.

SURELY IF I HAD BEEN BRAVE
ENOUGH TO CONFESS,
YAMASHITA WOULDN'T HAVE
HAD TO LEAVE TOWN AND
WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED
UP COMMITTING SUICIDE.

I
FELT
DEAD-
WEIGHT...



BUT HE DIED...



I HAD GIVEN UP
AND DECIDED THAT
I WOULD BE ALONE
FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE.

IT WAS AROUND
THIS TIME THAT
THE SAKO HITOSHI
INCIDENT HAPPENED.

I CAME
INTO MY
LATE
THIRTIES...



BUT I WAS NEVER
ABLE TO GET THE
THOUGHT OF
YAMASHITA COMPLETELY
OUT OF MY HEAD.

I HAD
MANY
RELATION-
SHIPS
AFTER
THAT...



AND LIKE ME, HE
HAD SET A FIRE
AND HAD TAKEN 8
PRECIOUS LIVES.

AND...

JUST LIKE YAMASHITA,
SAKO WAS A LONER
WHO HAD NO FRIENDS
AND WAS HATED
BY EVERYONE.

JUST LIKE
YAMASHITA,
SAKO WAS
A REBEL.

A FIRE...

JUST LIKE
ME...

I DECIDED
THAT I
WANTED
TO HELP HIM.

WHEN
I THOUGHT
ABOUT
THAT...

ME...

JUST
LIKE...

AND WERE
ABLE TO
MARRY.

WE WROTE
EACH OTHER
LETTER
AFTER
LETTER...

THE PIECE
OF MIND
THAT I
WAS
NEVER
ABLE TO
GIVE
YAMASHITA.

I DECIDED I
HAD TO GIVE
TO SAKO...



NOW, I
HAVE BECOME
DISCOURAGED.



BUT I BEGAN TO SEE WITH EACH
VISIT THAT HIS SOUL WAS
MORE UNCONTROLLABLE
THAN I HAD EVER IMAGINED.



I THOUGHT
THAT BY MARRYING
HIM I COULD HELP
HIM FEEL HUMAN
EMOTIONS AGAIN,
EVEN IF ONLY
SLIGHTLY.

NO MATTER WHAT
SOCIETY THINKS OF
ME, NO MATTER
HOW MUCH ABUSE
I ENDURE, I MUST
CONTINUE ON THE
PATH I'VE CHOSEN.

HELPING SAKO HITOSHI
IS MY WAY OF REPAYING
YAMASHITA FOR
COVERING FOR
ME SO LONG AGO.

BUT...

BUT...
I CAN'T
TURN BACK
NOW.







WHO KNEW
THAT SUCH A
TRAGIC
KIND OF
MARRIAGE
COULD
EXIST?

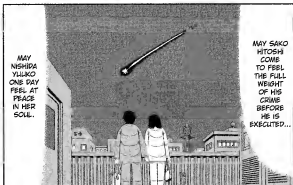
WHO
KNEW...

NISHIDA YUUKO
REALLY MARRIED A
PRISONER
TO MAKE AMENDS
FOR WHAT SHE DID
IN THE PAST?



HAD LEFT
HIS BOTH
DEEPLY
MOVED.

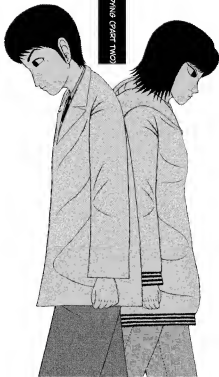
THAT
ONE GIRL'S
UNIMAGINABLE
WAY OF
LIFE...

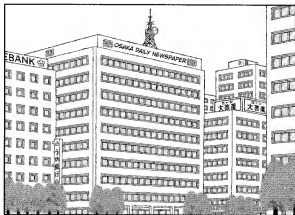


MAY
NISHIDA
YUUKO
ONE DAY
FEEL AT
PEACE
IN HER
SOUL..

MAY SAKO
HITOSHI
COME
TO FEEL
THE FULL
WEIGHT
OF HIS
CRIME
BEFORE
HE IS
EXECUTED...







WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
WAY OF
LIFE SHE'S
CHOSEN.

NISHIDA YUUKO
MARRIED A
DEATH ROW
CONVICT TO
ATONE FOR
HER PAST...



REVISIT
REVISIT

RIGHT.

OUR
MARRIAGE
WILL NEVER
BE THAT
DEPRESSING.
RIGHT?

OUR
MARRIAGE...

REVISIT
REVISIT



IT'S TOO
LATE FOR ME
TO REVISE
IT NOW.

BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
I'VE WRITTEN
AN INACCURATE
ARTICLE! WHAT
AM I GOING
TO DO?



SO LET'S KEEP THE TRUTH HIDDEN AND NEVER SPEAK OF IT TO ANYONE.



BESIDES, I DON'T THINK NISHIDA YUKIO WOULD WANT PEOPLE FINDING OUT THE REAL REASON SHE MARRIED A DEATH ROW INMATE.

LET'S JUST KEEP THIS A SECRET BETWEEN YOU AND ME.



I WONDER HOW MUCH TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED MS. NISHIDA WITH THAT ARTICLE...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I FEEL ANGLE.



AFTER THAT, I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT LIKE WE AGREED.



WHY DID I WRITE SUCH AN EMOTIONAL ARTICLE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

BUT I WONDER...





I GUESS
WINNING
THAT CHEF'S
PRIZE MADE
ME A LITTLE
ARROGANT.

THE FACT IS,
I'VE ONLY
BEEN HERE
ONE YEAR AND
HAVE YET TO
FULLY MATURE
AS A
JOURNALIST.



IT FEELS
LIKE WE'RE
GROWING
FURTHER
APART ALL
THE TIME.
I MISS HER.

BUT AFTER WE
BOTH STARTED
WORKING,
WE SAW EACH
OTHER LESS
AND LESS.



SINCE COLLEGE,
I'VE ALWAYS
THOUGHT THAT
ASAMI AND I
WOULD END UP
TOGETHER...

FOR
SOME
REASON...



OUR MARRIAGE
WILL NEVER
BE THAT
DEPRESSING,
RIGHT?

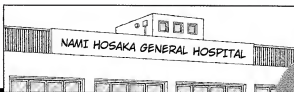
OUR
MARRIAGE...



I WANTED TO
PUT MYSELF
AT RISK AND
MAKE SURE
I KNEW
WHERE SHE
AND I
STOOD...

WHEN SHE
AND I
BECAME
INVOLVED
IN THE
NISHIDA
YUKIO
CASE,





IS
SPENDING
HIS DAYS
IN PRISON,
AND HOW
HE FELT
ABOUT
EVERY-
THING.

MS. TAEKO
WANTED TO
KNOW HOW
HOSHIYAMA
KATSUMIRO,
THE MAN
WHO WAS
SENTENCED
TO DEATH
FOR KILLING
HER FAMILY...



ONE OF THE
PATIENTS
HERE IS
KURAMICHI
TAEKO...

NOT ONLY WAS
HER ENTIRE
FAMILY KILLED,
BUT SHE
HERSELF IS
DYING FROM
CANCER AND
HAS VERY
LITTLE TIME
LEFT.



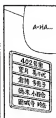
IT'S TIMES
LIKE THESE...
WHEN YOU'VE
MADE A MISTAKE...
THAT YOU NEED
TO WORK EXTRA
HARD AND MAKE
SURE YOU DO
YOUR JOB RIGHT.

SINCE THEN,
A MONTH
HAS GONE
BY, AND
I HAVEN'T
GIVEN MS.
TAEKO ANY
SORT OF
UPDATE.



NAO WAS
DISTURBED
BY THE
IDEA AND
RAN OFF.

I TRIED TO HAVE NAO,
WHO IS A DEATH
ROW PRISON GUARD,
VISIT WITH HER AND
TALK TO HER ABOUT
HOSHIYAMA, BUT...







I DIDN'T
BORROW
MUCH DID
I, YOU
IDOT?!

I WAS
MAKING A
MINIATURE
HOUSE
AND RAN
OUT OF
SUPPLIES...



THIS BRAT
DESTROYED
THE SHELF
IN HIS CELL.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...



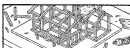
WHA-
WHAT
HAVE
YOU
DONE?!

1/2
キ
1
WARRIOR

EH?!
WHAT THE
HELL IS THIS
PIECE OF
CRAP?



THIS
MONSTER...



AH!



HOSHIYAMA
KATSUHIRO
STARTED
BUILDING MODEL
HOUSES AGAIN?

IS
THAT
SO?



LET GO
OF ME!

YOU
BASTARD!



BREAK ROOM



YES,
SIR!

COME HELP ME
MOVE THIS
BASTARD TO A
HOLDING CELL!

HEY,
BOMBON...



HE HAS
A SPECIAL
THING FOR
MINIATURE
HOUSES...

EVERY YEAR
AROUND THE
TURN OF SPRING,
HE REQUESTS
WOOD MATERIALS
AND GETS INTO
IT WITH BOTH
HANDS...



'AGAIN'?

HUH?



I WAS
JUST SITTING
ON MY
HOBBS' GOOD
SIDE...

WHY WOULD
I FEEL
SORRY
ABOUT IT?



BUT USING THE
SHELF IN HIS
CELL FOR HIS
PROJECTS IS
AGAINST THE
RULES.

IN THE SPRINGTIME,
WHEN IT STARTS TO
GET WARM, I'M SURE
HE GETS SO BORED HE
CAN'T STAND IT, SO
HE STARTS BUILDING
MINIATURE HOUSES...



I WONDER
HOW SHE'S
BEEN DOING
SINCE THEN...

KURAMOTO TAKO
WANTED TO HEAR
FROM ME HOW
HOSHINAWA FELT
ABOUT EVERYTHING
BUT...



IT'S BEEN SEVEN
YEARS SINCE THEN
AND SHE'S STILL
ALIVE THANKS TO
ME. I THINK I
DESERVE A LITTLE
GRATITUDE...

THAT GIRL
FROM THE
RESTAURANT
WHO'S SICK
AND DYING...



I'LL NOW ASK
YOU ABOUT
EXHIBIT #112 A
PICTURES ONE
THROUGH
TWELVE.



THAT THE DEFENDANT
KILLED BOTH AT THE
SAME TIME WITH
A SINGLE DOWNWARD
SLASH OF HIS SWORD?



6



7

JUDGING FROM
THE BLADE WOUNDS SEEN
HERE ON FATHER
AND DAUGHTER
KATSUO AND
YUKA TAJIRI,
IS IT YOUR
OPINION...

IT STATES THAT
THE CRIME WAS
PREMEDITATED
AND THAT THE
DEFENDANT HAD
PLANNED TO
MURDER THE
DAUGHTER AS
WELL AS THE
FATHER.

DO YOU
AGREE WITH
THAT?



ACCORDING TO
THE WRITTEN
INDICEMENT,
THERE WAS,
WITHOUT A
DOUBT, INTENT
ON THE PART
OF THE
DEFENDANT
TO SLAY BOTH
OF THEM.

JUDGING BY THE
ANGLE AND DEPTH
OF THE WOUNDS,
I CAN SAY WITHOUT
HESITATION THAT
BOTH WERE MADE
WITH A SINGLE
BLOW.

YES.



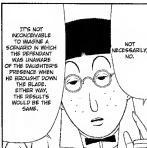
IT IS UNCLEAR
WHETHER OR NOT
THE DEFENDANT
HAD INTENDED TO
KILL BOTH VICTIMS
WHEN HE BROUGHT
DOWN HIS SWORD.
IS THAT CORRECT?

IN OTHER WORDS,
IN YOUR EXPERT
OPINION...



IT'S NOT
NECESSARILY
TO IMAGINE A
SCENARIO IN WHICH
THE DEFENDANT
WAS UNAWARE OF
THE DAUGHTER'S
PRESENCE WHEN
HE BROUGHT DOWN
THE BLADE.
EITHER WAY,
THE RESULTS
WOULD BE THE
SAME.

NOT
NECESSARILY,
NO.



I STILL DON'T KNOW
WHICH WOULD BE MORE
ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE
DEFENSE: THE PROSECUTION'S
TWO COUNTS OF MURDER, OR
ONE COUNT OF UNINTENTIONAL
MANSLAUGHTER.

FOR THE PAST THREE
MONTHS, THE TRIAL
HAS BEEN FOCUSED
ON WHETHER OR
NOT THE DEFENDANT
INTENDED TO MURDER
THE DAUGHTER...

THAT IS
CORRECT.

NO
FURTHER
QUESTIONS.

THAT WATASE
MYSELF IS
A TRULY
GHOSTLY
MURDERER.

BUT KILLING
TWO PEOPLE
WITH ONE
BLOW FROM
HIS SWORD...

I DON'T
GET IT
AT ALL!

HOW
COULD NAO
ADMIRE SUCH
AN EVIL
MURDERER?

THAT'S
SO COOL,
YA
KNOW??!

JUST THINKING
ABOUT HOW,
AFTER TEN
YEARS, HE
FINALLY
ACCOMPLISHED
HIS MISSION
AND GOT
REVENGE...









I GUESS SHE'S ON HER WAY TO THE RESTAURANT...

OH...



!?



MS. TABKO...

MS...



RAISING A FAMILY, AND OPENING TWO MORE OF THESE RESTAURANTS.

I HAD DREAMED OF FINDING A HUSBAND...

I WAS BORN AND RAISED HERE.



AND WAS TRULY HAPPY EVERY DAY.

I WAS SURROUNDED BY FRIENDLY CUSTOMERS...



WERE ALL VERY KIND TO ME.

MY MOTHER, FATHER, AND GRAND-MOTHER...



IT
MAKES
ME SO
SAD...

AND NOW
WHEN I
THINK
ABOUT
THIS BEING
THE END
FOR MY
RESTAURANT...



THEN
ONE DAY,
MY WHOLE
FAMILY WAS
SUDDENLY
TAKEN
FROM ME.

BEING THE
ONLY ONE
LEFT BEHIND,
I COULD
BARELY GO
ON LIVING.



THERE IS
NOTHING
MORE
PAINFUL
IN THIS
WORLD!

THE MAN WHO
STOLE MY FAMILY
FROM ME GOES
ON LIVING WHILE
MY LIFE DRAWS
RAPIDLY TO A
CLOSE...

AT THE VERY LEAST—
AT THE VERY LEAST,
I WOULD LIKE TO
HEAR HOSHIDARA
SAY THAT HE
REGRETS WHAT
HE DID...



I WON'T BE
ABLE TO JOIN
MY FAMILY
IN HEAVEN!!

NOT TO
RECEIVE
AN APOLOGY
FROM HIM
FOR WHAT
HE DID...

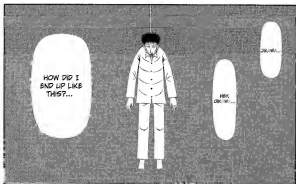
IT HURTS!

IT HURTS!

IT HURTS
SO MUCH!!







WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO HEAR HOSHIYAMA EXPRESS REMORSE BY THE TIME SHE DIED.

MS. TABKO, WHOSE FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY HOSHIYAMA KATSUHIRO AND WHO WAS CLOSE TO DYING HERSELF,



ASAMI...



IT WOULD TORTURE HER EVEN IN THE AFTERLIFE.

IF SHE KNEW THE TRUTH...



AND IF MS. TABKO FOUND THAT OUT, IT WOULD CRUSH HER.

HOWEVER, I KNEW THAT HOSHIYAMA HADN'T THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF REMORSE FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE.



HER SENSE OF JUSTICE WAS STRONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE'S, AND I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T TRY TO SOFTEN THE TRUTH WHEN SHE CONVEYED IT TO MS. TABKO.



I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOSHIYAMA TO ASAMI, EITHER...









WE THEORIZED
THAT HE SECLUDED
HIMSELF IN THE
MOUNTAINS FOR
1 YEAR AND ATONE
FOR HIS SIN.



WE EVENTUALLY
LANDED ON THE THEORY
THAT EVEN THOUGH HE
AVENGED HIS PARENTS,
HE PROBABLY FELT
Horrified AFTERWARDS
FOR HAVING KILLED
A HUMAN BEING...



BUT I WONDER
WHAT REALLY
HAPPENED...

WATASE, WHO WAITED
TEN YEARS TO AVENGE
HIS PARENTS' DEATH
SEEMED TO ME LIKE
THE KIND OF PERSON
WHO WOULD'VE
SECLUDED HIMSELF
IN THE MOUNTAINS
FOR A YEAR.

WHEN HE
CAME OUT
OF HIDEOUT
AND TURNED
HIMSELF IN,
HE LOOKED
LIKE A
MESS.

HE MUST
HAVE HAD
ANOTHER
REASON
FOR HIDING
OUT THAT
WHOLE YEAR.



WAS OUR
THEORY
ABOUT
HOW HE
SPENT THAT
YEAR
CORRECT?

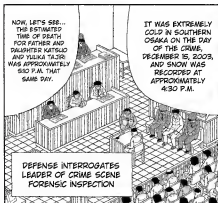


THE MORE I
REALIZE HOW
LITTLE I
KNOW ABOUT
WATASE...



THE
MORE
I
THINK
ABOUT
IT...







NO...

IN THE MIDDLE
OF DECEMBER, IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN COMPLETELY
DARK BY 5:00
P.M.



IT'D LIKE TO ASK
YOU WHETHER OR
NOT YOU THINK THE
DEFENDANT WAS
AWARE OF YUKIYA'S
PRESENCE AT THE
SCENE OF THE
KILLINGS.

GIVEN THE
SEASON,
WEATHER,
AND TIME
OF DAY...



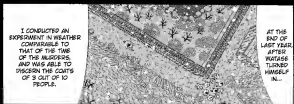
SOMEONE
WITH GOOD
EYE-SIGHT
MAY HAVE
BEEN ABLE
TO
IDENTIFY
HER.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE
THE COAT TAJIRI
KATSUO HAD BUNDLED
HIS DAUGHTER UP
IN WAS A RELATIVELY
LIGHT BEIGE...



UNDER THOSE
CIRCUMSTANCES,
I BELIEVE IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN VERY
DIFFICULT TO
SEE ANYTHING.

NOT ONLY THAT,
THERE WASN'T A
SINGLE STREETLIGHT
IN THE RESIDENTIAL
AREA NEXT TO THE
SCENE OF THE
CRIME, AND IT WAS
SNOWING.



I CONDUCTED AN
EXPERIMENT IN WEATHER
COMPARABLE TO
THAT OF THE TIME
OF THE MURDERS,
AND WAS ABLE TO
DISCERN THE COATS
OF 3 OUT OF 10
PEOPLE.

AT THE
END OF
LAST YEAR,
AFTER
WATASE
TURNED
HIMSELF
IN...



I SEE...



I THINK
IT'S A
STRONG
POSSIBILITY.

ARE YOU SAYING
THEN THAT THE
DEFENDANT, WHOSE
VISUAL ACUITY IS
BETTER THAN 20/20,
WOULD HAVE HAD
NO TROUBLE
SEEING THE COAT?



IT WAS
ESTABLISHED
THAT THE
YOUNG GIRL
WAS
COMPLETELY
CONCEALED
INSIDE
THE COAT.

WHEN
THE CUTS
ON THE
COAT WERE
COMPARED
TO THE
WOUNDS ON
THE CORPSE...



DO YOU BELIEVE
THE DEFENDANT
REALIZED THERE
WAS A HUMAN
BEING WRAPPED UP
INSIDE OF THE COAT
TAJIRI KATSUO
WAS CARRYING?

IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
THEN HE
WOULD HAVE
BEEN ABLE
TO RECOGNIZE
THAT IT WAS
TAJIRI KATSUO
CARRYING THE
COAT...



HMM?...



I MUST SAY IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN
A SUPERHUMAN
FEAT FOR HIM TO
NOTICE THE GIRL'S
SMALL BODY
BLINDLED UP
INSIDE THE COAT.

IN THAT
SHORT AMOUNT
OF TIME...
AND IN THE
ANGLE OF
DARKNESS
AND SNOW...



YES, I
SUPPOSE
SO.



IN OTHER WORDS,
THE CLAIM THAT
THE DEFENDANT
KNEW ABOUT YUUKA
AND HAD INTENDED
TO KILL BOTH HER
AND HER FATHER...



PROSECUTION'S
CASE
KEEPS
GETTING
WEAKER
AND
WEAKER...

BETTER THAN
THE LAST
COCONUT'S
TESTIMONY.

INCRED-
IBLE.



NO
FURTHER
QUESTIONS.



NAO...



WHY AM I
THINKING
ABOUT NAO
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?...



PERHAPS WATASE
MITSURU WILL
GET OFF LIGHTER
THAN EXPECTED,
NAO...

JUST AS I
EXPECTED,
THAT
MURASAKI
HISAO IS
QUITE A
SKILLED
ATTORNEY.



WHICH WOULD
VIRTUALLY GUARANTEE
A LIGHTER SENTENCE,
WHEN YOU CONSIDER
THAT THE PROSECUTION
IS CHARGING HIM
WITH TWO COUNTS
OF MURDER.



YES, IF WE KEEP
THIS UP, MR. WATASE
WILL BE CONVICTED
ON ONE COUNT
OF MURDER, AND
ONE COUNT OF
UNINTENTIONAL
MANSLAUGHTER...

NOW, IT
LOOKS AS
THOUGH YOUR
DREAM TO
HELP MR.
WATASE COULD
COME TRUE...



YOU HAD PREVIOUSLY
DEFENDED AND SUCCEEDED
IN GETTING A REDUCED
SENTENCE FOR TAKER
KATSUO, WHO KILLED
WATASE MITSURU'S
PARENTS, AND THIS
WAS PARTLY WHAT
MOTIVATED MR. WATASE
TO TAKE REVENGE.

DR. MURASAME,
YOU SAID THAT
YOU WANTED
TO HELP MR.
WATASE AND
THAT YOU
FELT AN
OBLIGATION
TO HIM
BECAUSE...

HOW DO YOU
INTEND TO PROCEED
GOING FORWARD?!



YES, BUT
THIS TRIAL
SEEMS TO
BE UNFOLDING
QUITE
DIFFERENTLY
FROM THE
HUMAN
RIGHTS
CASES I
USUALLY
WORK ON...

I WOULD
BE HAPPY
IF IT DID...



YES...



YOUR SKILL
IN THE
COURTROOM
IS QUITE A
THING TO SEE.



WITH YOU,
I REALLY
DON'T MIND
AT ALL.

NO NO,
IT'S FINE.



HOW RUDE
OF ME...

I'M
SORRY...



I TOOK ON A
MURDER CASE
AS A DEFENDER.

WHEN
I WAS
YOUNG.



!?



THERE'S ONE
BIG REASON
I'VE CONTINUED
WORKING AS
A HUMAN
RIGHTS LAWYER
FOR SO LONG...

WELL, I
MIGHT AS
WELL TELL
YOU...



I WAS ABLE TO
GET HIS SENTENCE
REDUCED FROM
15 YEARS TO
10 YEARS, BUT...

BUT I WORKED
HARD, AND MY
EFFORTS PAID
OFF...



I HAD ONLY
TAKEN THE
CASE FOR
THE MONEY
AND PRESTIGE.

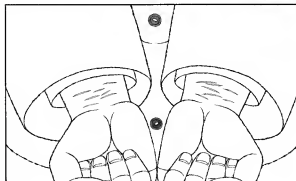
THROUGHOUT
THE TRIAL,
MY CLIENT
WENT SHOW
THE SLIGHTEST
BIT OF
REMOUSE...













ALRIGHT,
AS SCHEDULED,
WE WILL
GUARD THE
POLICE
VAN...



TO PUT IT
ANOTHER WAY...
THIS RESEMBLES
THE KIND OF
SCARS THAT
OCCURS WHEN
ONE ATTEMPTS
SUICIDE BY SLASHING
THEIR WRISTS BUT
IS TOO RELUCTANT
TO COMPLETE THE
TASK.

THE SCARS ON BOTH
WRISTS SHOW SIGNS
OF RELUCTANCE...

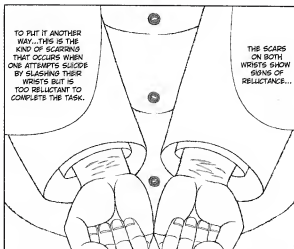


A WATASE I
DIDN'T KNOW
WAS FRANTICALLY
TRYING TO BREAK
FREE...

IN A PLACE
I DIDN'T KNOW...

EPISODE 19 - WATASE MITSURU VOL. 3







AS OF
RIGHT NOW,
I CAN'T
SAY THAT
I HAVE
A CONCRETE
STRATEGY
JUST
YET, BUT...

WELL...



I THINK
I'M GOING
TO TRY AND
GET A REDUCED
SENTENCE FOR
MR. WATASE
USING A
"STRONG BELIEF"
ARGUMENT.

ACTUALLY,
AT THE
NEXT
HEARING...



LEAD TO
WATASE
GETTING A
REDUCED
SENTENCE?

HOW DO
THE SCARS
LEFT FROM
THE SUICIDE
ATTEMPT...

IS BRINGING
UP WATASE'S
SUICIDE
ATTEMPT THE
"CONCRETE
STRATEGY"
DR. MURASAME
WAS TALKING
ABOUT.



IT IS PECULIAR
HOW LITTLE
INFORMATION HAS
COME FROM
THE MOUTH OF
THE DEFENDANT
HIMSELF...

THE POINT AT
ISSUE IN THIS
CASE IS
CLEARLY
DEFINED, BUT...



MR.
WATASE...



THE
JUDGE
SUMMONED
THE
PROSECUTOR
AND
ME...

AFTER
THE
LAST
TRIAL...

AND HE WOULDN'T ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WE ASKED ABOUT THE HESITATION WOUNDS THAT WERE ON BOTH OF HIS WRISTS, EITHER.

OR WHAT HE HAD BEEN DOING FOR THE YEAR BETWEEN WHEN HE FLED THE SCENE OF THE CRIME AND WHEN HE TURNED HIMSELF IN...

BUT HE WOULDN'T SAY A WORD IN REGARDS TO WHETHER OR NOT YULIKA HAD BEEN IN ON IT...

IN THE CRIMINAL ENQUIRY, HE ADMITTED BOTH TO HAVING KILLED KATSUO AND YULIKA TAJIRI, AND THAT IT HAD BEEN PREMEDITATED...

YES, IT IS.



HOW WOULD THAT BE?

THAT IS WHY IN THE NEXT TRIAL, I'M CONSIDERING QUESTIONING THE DEFENDANT ABOUT THE "LOST YEAR" MYSELF.

I'M AFRAID THAT NEXT TIME WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL DUE TO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY MYSTERIES SURROUNDING THIS CASE.

SOME TIME LATER HE TOLD YOU HIS DEFENSE LAWYER, THAT HE HADN'T MEANT TO KILL YULIKA, BUT...



I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THAT.

AS PROSECUTOR...





IT HIT
ME JUST
THEN...



NOR DOES
THE DEFENSE

キラッ



I THOUGHT THEY
HAD IGNORED THE
DETAIL ABOUT MR.
WATASE'S WOUNDS
AND HADN'T INCLUDED
IT IN THE INDICTMENT
BECAUSE THEY
COULDN'T THINK OF
ANY WAY TO USE
IT TO OUR
ADVANTAGE,
SO I IGNORED
IT.

THE PROSECUTION
WAS PROBABLY
AIMING FOR
TWO COUNTS OF
MURDER...

THE
WRITTEN
INDICTMENT
MADE NO
MENTION
OF THE
HESITATION
WOUNDS
WATASE
HAD...



7"
7"
7"

I THOUGHT IF
I CHOSE MY
WORDS CAREFULLY,
IT MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE TO
GET MR. WATASE'S
SENTENCE REDUCED
BY ARGUING FROM
A STANDPOINT OF
"STRONG BELIEF".

AFTER THE JUDGE HAD
FINISHED, I DEVELOPED
A THEORY WHICH LINKED-
TOGETHER MR. WATASE'S
"MISSING YEAR" AND HIS
HESITATION WOUNDS...



THE JUDGE
QUESTIONED
WATASE DIRECTLY
ABOUT THE YEAR
HE WAS MISSING...



BUT I HADN'T
EXPECTED TAJIRI
TO HAVE HIS
DAUGHTER UNDER
HIS ARM...

THE PLAN HAD
BEEN ONLY TO
KILL TAJIRI
KATSUO...



DID YOU HONESTLY
INTEND TO CUT
YOUR WRISTS
RIGHT AFTER YOU
TOOK YOUR
REVENGE?

MR. WITASE,
PLEASE ANSWER
ME HONESTLY
AND DIRECTLY...



BUT WE'RE SHOCKED TO
DISCOVER THAT YOU HAD
UNWITTINGLY KILLED AN
INNOCENT HUMAN, AND
SO YOU FLEW...



YOU
DELIVERED
A
SINGLE
BLOW...



AND SO
UNWITTINGLY
OF YULIKA'S
PRESENCE...

YOU
REALIZED
THAT YOU
HAD KILLED
THE YOUNG
GIRL, TOO...



WHEN YOU
FELL TO
THE GROUND
AND SAW
NOT ONE
BUT TWO
CORPSES...





THIS IS
WHAT DR.
MURASAME
MEANT WHEN
HE SAID
"STRONG
BELIEF."

AH,
I SEE...



YOU
TRULY
DID
FEEL
REGRET...

YOU...



HOW WILL
WATASE
RESPOND,
I WONDER...

THAT'S
THE END
OF MY
THEORY...



AND THEN
ASKS THE
JUDGE FOR
A LIGHTER
SENTENCE
BASED
ON THIS
STRONG
BELIEF.

FROM THE
HESITATION
WOUNDS, HE
GATHERS
THAT WATASE
FELT REGRET...



YOU ARE A KIND
HUMAN, AND YOU
DEEPLY REGRET
HAVING KILLED
YUUKA
UNWITTINGLY.



WATASE, YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO BE SILENT
ANY LONGER...







I MUST STRONGLY
INSIST ONCE MORE
THAT THE DEFENDANT
BE CHARGED WITH
ONE COUNT OF
MURDER, AND ONE
COUNT OF
UNINTENTIONAL
MANKLAUGHTER.

HOWEVER,
JUST AS I
SAID IN MY
OPENING
STATEMENT...



WHAT
A BRILLIANT
STRATEGY IT
WAS TO GET
THE SILENT,
STUBBORN
WATASE TO
FINALLY
GIVE TESTIMONY
FOR THE FIRST
TIME EVER...

IN...
INCREDIBLY!
HE GOT A
CONFIRMATION
FROM
WATASE...



THIS IS
GOING TO
MAKE FOR
A GREAT
ARTICLE!!

THIS...

WHAT A
TRULY
EXCELLENT
LAWYER
HE IS!

DR.
MURA-
SABE...





WATASE...



FUCHIBARA,
OSAKA



HE SPENT THE
FIRST TWELVE
YEARS OF HIS
LIFE HERE
BEFORE HIS
PARENTS WERE
MURDERED.

WATASE WAS
BORN JUST
5 DAYS
AFTER ME...



THE PROPERTY
HASN'T RECEIVED
ANY OFFERS AND
REMAINS VACANT
EVEN 10 YEARS
AFTER THE INCIDENT
TOOK PLACE.

BECAUSE
THEY WERE
MURDERED
HERE...





I MIGHT
HAVE HAD
A CHANCE
TO PLAY
AGAINST
WATASE
HERE
ON THIS
FIELD.

IF MY
TEAM HAD
BEEN A
LITTLE BIT
BETTER...

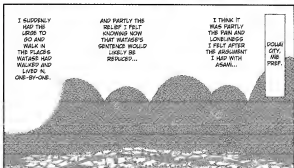


WATASE
AND
I BOTH
PLAYED
LITTLE
LEAGUE
BASEBALL
AS BOYS.



I CAN
HARDLY
SEE STILL...

WHEN I
THINK OF
WATASE
AND THE
FACT THAT
HE AND I
WERE THE
SAME AGE
AND HAD
SO MANY
THINGS
IN COMMON...



I SUDDENLY
HAD THE
URGE TO
GO AND
WALK IN
THE PLACE
WATASE
HAD
WALKED AND
LIVED IN
ONE-BY-ONE.

AND PARTLY THE
RELIEF I FELT
KNOWING NOW
THAT WATASE'S
SENTENCE WOULD
LIKELY BE
REDUCED...

I THINK IT
WAS PARTLY
THE PAIN AND
LONGING I FELT
AFTER
THE ARGUMENT
I HAD WITH
ASAMI...

DOLLAR
CITY, MS
PREP.



WATAKE AND HIS YOUNGEST SISTER LOOKED AFTER AND LIVED IN THEIR PARENTS' QUIET, PEACEFUL HOME UNTIL WATAKE LEFT MIDDLE SCHOOL.

AFTER HIS PARENTS WERE ALREADY...



BECAUSE HE WAS STABBED IN THE RIGHT SHOULDER BY TAJIRI, HE HAD TO QUIT PLAYING BASEBALL. I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW FRUSTRATING THAT MUST HAVE BEEN...

I WONDER WHAT HIS DAILY THOUGHTS WERE LIKE...

I DON'T KNOW IF THE PLEASANT, PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE SOOTHED HIS SOUL AT ALL, BUT...



HIS NEARBY TAJIRI WAS MOVING INTO AN APARTMENT NEAR HIS EX-WIFE'S FAMILY'S HOUSE, AS HE INTENDED TO VISIT THEM.

AFTER HE GRADUATED MIDDLE SCHOOL, WATAKE VANISHED. AT THAT SAME TIME,

TAJIRI, OSAKA



AND ALL
THE WHILE,
THE DESIRE
FOR REVENGE
BURNED
INSIDE HIM.

WATASE
WORKED
THE NIGHT
SHIFT AT
THIS
FACTORY...



IS THE
SPOT WHERE
WATASE
TOOK HIS
REVENGE.

THIS
SPOT...



THEN,
WHEN
WAS 33,
THE DAY
FINALLY
CAME...

HE WAITED
AND WAITED
FOR THE
DAY TO
COME WHEN
HE COULD
TAKE HIS
REVENGE...



DID YOU AND
NAO REALLY
BREAK UP?

I WONDERED
WHY YOU TWO
HADN'T BEEN
HERE TOGETHER
LATELY...



WAS AN
INNOCENT
GIRL GETTING
MIXED UP
IN ALL OF
IT.

THE ONLY
THING WATASE
HADN'T
ACCOUNTED
FOR...





MAYBE YOU TWO HAVE
GROWN APART
FROM EACH
OTHER SINCE
YOU ENTERED
THE REAL
WORLD.



MAYBE THE TIME
HAS COME FOR
NAD TO GO HIS
OWN WAY, AGAIN...



A LOT OF NEW
THINGS HE STARTED
TO THINK ABOUT
THAT HE HADN'T
THOUGHT ABOUT
BEFORE...

I THINK
THAT
ONCE NAD
STARTED
BECOMING
AN ADULT,
THERE
WERE
A LOT
OF
THINGS...



FRIGHTENED
TO THE
CORE AFTER
WHAT HE
HAD DONE...

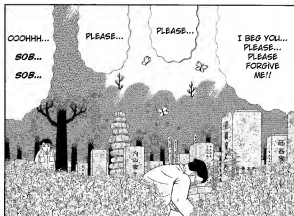
HE MUST
HAVE BEEN
SCARED...

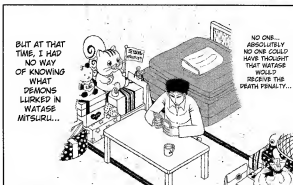
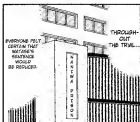


HE FLED
FROM
HERE...

IN SHOCK
FROM HAVING
KILLED THE
YOUNG
GIRL...









LEADER
OUTRIGHT
CHARACTERS



SUB-LEADER



THE QUIET ONE



PERKY MORON

WATASE REFERENCES, VOL. 5

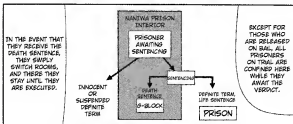
● WATASE GIRLS

4 OFFICE LADIES WHO ARE FRIENDS AND FANS OF WATASE INTSUGU. THEY OFTEN CONVERSE AT THE PAPABANA TEA AND COFFEE HOUSE. ACTUALLY, THEY ARE ALSO ALL FANS OF KOREAN SINGER RYU WHO SANG THE THEME SONG OF WINTER SONATA. THESE CHARACTERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN REFERRED TO SIMPLY AS THE "WATASE GIRLS" EVER SINCE GONDA AND HIS PRODUCER INVENTED THEM. THEY DON'T HAVE NAMES PERSE, BUT THEY DO HAVE DEFINITE INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITIES.

CHAPTER 20 - SHADOW CATCHBALL









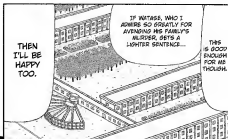
WITHOUT EVER
MEETING OR
SPEAKING TO
ONE ANOTHER.

BUT WATASE AND
I HAVE SPENT AND
WILL SPEND OUR
ENTIRE LIVES...

I'VE THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
MANY THINGS
WE WOULD HAVE
TO TALK ABOUT,
BEING THE
SAME AGE...



THEN
I'LL BE
HAPPY
TOO.



IF WATASE, WHO I
ADMIRE SO GREATLY FOR
AVENGING HIS FAMILY'S
MURDER, GETS A
LIGHTER SENTENCE...

THIS
IS GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR ME
THOUGH.



WHY WOULD
I FEEL
SORRY
ABOUT IT?

I WAS JUST
GETTING ON
MY HOSTS' GOOD SIDE...



HOW WOULD
YOU DO IT?
HOW WOULD
YOU KILL
ME?

YOU SAID BEFORE
THAT YOU WERE
GONNA KILL ME,
BUT I WAS
WONDERING...

HEY...
HEY, NEW
GUY...



IS DYING
OF STOMACH
CANCER AND
DOESN'T
HAVE MUCH
LONGER TO
LIVE...

THAT'S RIGHT...
MS. KURAMOTO
TAKKO, WHOSE
FAMILY WAS
MISSED BY THIS GUY...



I'M
GOING TO
EXECUTE
THIS
BASTARD
WITH MY
BARE
HANDS!

I'M
GOING TO
KILL HIM
RIGHT
NOW!!



BUT I COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF TO
TELL MS. TAKKO
THAT HOSHIYAMA
DIDN'T REGRET
WHAT HE DID ONE
LITTLE BIT.

ASAMI PRESSED
ME TO SHARE
WHAT I KNEW
ABOUT HOSHIYAMA
KATSUHIRO WITH
MS. TAKKO...



I WON'T BE
ABLE TO JOIN
MY FAMILY IN
HEAVEN!!

NOT TO
RECEIVE
AN APOLOGY
FROM HIM
FOR WHAT
HE DID...

IT HURTS!
IT HURTS!
IT HURTS SO
MUCH!!



HEH
HEH
HEH...

I HATE
HAVING TO
SUFFER, SO
WHY DON'T
YOU PUT ME
OUT OF MY
MISERY IF
YOU CAN?



THAT WAS
WHAT LED
TO ASAMI
AND ME...





JUST WHAT I
NEEDED! THAT NEW
GUY COMPLETELY
READ MY MIND.
HEH HEH...

HOW
THOUGHTFUL
OF THE NEW
GUY TO LEAVE
ME THIS PIECE
OF WOOD FOR
MY MINATURE
HOUSE...
I'M GOING TO
USE IT RIGHT
AWAY...



MY MIND WAS
SO FOCUSED ON
GETTING OUT
OF THERE THAT
I FORGOT TO PUT
THAT EXTRA PIECE
OF WOOD BACK!

OH,
NO!



AHH!!



TO
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

I JUST
WANT THAT
HOPELESS
CRISP...



I THINK
MAYBE YOU
AND ME REALLY
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER...!

YEAH,
NEW
GUY...

BWA-
HA HA...



THAT DEVIL
SATONAKA
MAY HAVE
DESTROYED
IT ONCE
BEFORE...

BUT
NOW IT'S
ALMOST
COMPLETE!



I REALLY
SHOULD
JUST
HURRY
UP AND
FORGET
ABOUT
IT...



THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN
DO FOR
HIS...

I SHOULD
JUST
FORGET
ABOUT MS.
TABKO...







IS SHE TOO BUSY BEING A NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST?

IF SHE HAD ALREADY GONE TO THE TROUBLE OF COMING HERE, WHY NOT JUST COME INSIDE?



HUH?

NAGI,
THERE'S
A LETTER
HERE FOR
YOU...
IT'S FROM
ASAMI.



THERE'S NO
STAMP, SO
SHE MUST HAVE
COME HERE AND
PUT THE LETTER
DIRECTLY INTO THE
MAILBOX.



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.



!!



FROM ASAMI SAWADA



TO MR. NAGI OKADA



WHAT
COULD IT
SAY...?

A
LETTER
FROM
ASAMI...?



THAT I
BROKE
DOWN.

ASAMI'S
FAREWELL
TO ME...

IT WAS ONLY
THREE WORDS,
BUT THOSE
THREE WORDS
WERE SO
KIND...

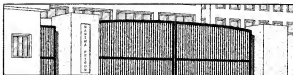


MEOW

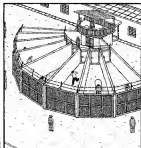


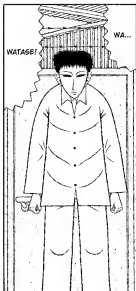
SOB...
SOB...

SOB...
SOB...
SOB...











THEN I
DEVELOPED
A STRONG
ADAMANTION
FOR HIM
ONCE I
HEARD THAT
HE HAD
AVOIDED
HIS PARENTS'
DEATH.

THEN TIME
PASSED...

I KNOW ABOUT
WATASE AITSURU
WHEN I WAS
IN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL....



IT SEEMS
THERE'S A
REALLY GREAT
PITCHER IN
FUJIEDERA...



IT'D LIKE
TO TRY
PLAYING
AGAINST
HIM...

IF HE'S
AS GOOD
AS THEY
SAY HE
IS...



AND YET
HERE HE
IS...
AND SO CLOSE
TOO!

I NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D HAVE
A CHANCE
TO MEET
HIM...

I...



EVEN THOUGH WATASE
LOST THE ABILITY TO
PITCH REGULARLY WHEN
HE WAS STABBED IN
THE RIGHT SHOULDER
BY TAJIRI KATSUO...

HE CAN
STILL
SHADOW
PITCH!!

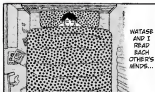
WOW!

OOO

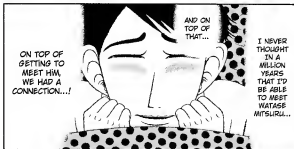








WATASE
AND I
READ
EACH
OTHER'S
MINDS...



ON TOP OF
GETTING TO
MEET HIM,
WE HAD A
CONNECTION...!

AND ON
TOP OF
THAT...

I NEVER
THOUGHT
IN A
MILLION
YEARS
THAT I'D
BE ABLE
TO MEET
WATASE
MITSURU...



MAYBE I'M
ABLE TO
UNDERSTAND
MORIYAMA
KATSUHIRO
LIKE I
UNDERSTAND
AKAMI AND
WATASE...

THAT'S IT!
MAYBE I'M...



WE
UNDER-
STOOD
EACH
OTHER...



I THINK
MAYBE YOU
AND ME
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND EACH
OTHER...



THEN I COULD
TELL KURAWOCHI
TAKKO ABOUT IT,
AND SHE WOULD
BE ABLE TO
LEAVE THIS
WORLD IN
PEACE...



IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
AND I'M
SOMEHOW
ABLE TO
MAKE HOSHIYAMA
FEEL
REMORSE
FOR HIS
CRIME...



THEN I CAN
TRULY FORGET
ABOUT HER
FOR GOOD.

IF I CAN RESOLVE
THE PROBLEM THAT
CAUSED ME AND AGAIN
TO BREAK UP...

I WASN'T
ABLE TO
PUT MY
FINGER
ON IT AT
THE TIME,
BUT THIS
IS THE
SOURCE OF
THE PAIN
I FELT IN
MY CHEST
EARLIER...



SOMEHOW...
SOMEHOW OR
OTHER, I'VE
GOT TO TRY
AND MAKE
HOSHIYAMA
KATSUHIRO
FEEL REMORSE
FOR WHAT HE
DID.

IF I WAS
ABLE TO
ESTABLISH
A MENTAL
CONNECTION
WITH WATASE,
I KNOW I
CAN DO THIS...

ALL
RIGHT
THEN...

MORIASA REFERENCES VOL. 6



● "FANTASTIC" BEAUTY SALON

A BEAUTY SALON LOCATED DIRECTLY ABOVE PAPA'S TEA AND COFFEE HOUSE (WHICH NAOKI AND ASAMI HAVE GONE TO SINCE THEIR SCHOOL DAYS) ON 2ND FLOOR OF MISC. OFFICE BUILDING.

IT IS A REAL BEAUTY SALON THAT IS RUN BY GOURA'S GOOD FRIEND'S MOTHER AND USED TO BE CALLED *MORE SUBJECT*. IT IS BESIDE A POLICE BOX THAT IS HALFWAY BETWEEN THE JR SHINKA STATION AND TOKU HANDS.



"THE SOFA"

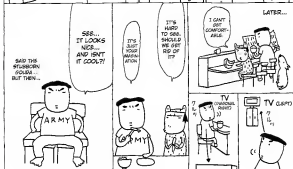
MATCH SARAWABB

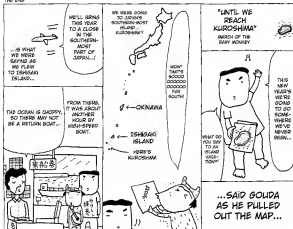
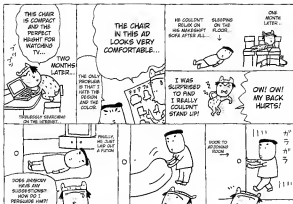


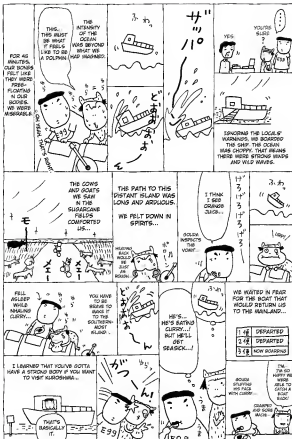
WHAT KIND OF CAR INTERIOR DO PEOPLE CHOOSE SO THEY CAN BE COMFORTABLE ON AN OUTING?



THERE'S A SMALL COUNTER IN THE KITCHEN OF THE HOUSE WE'RE MOVING INTO WHERE WE SIT AND WATCH TV FROM, BUT...

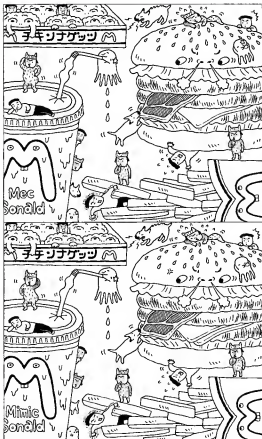






Let's go to the hamburger shop ♥

MUTSUHI GOROU
SPOT THE DIFFERENCES
CHARGE AGE 100



IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN IN HELL FOR DAYS NOW. I GOT A COLD WHICH LED TO A SORE THROAT, I'VE GOT A FEVER THAT WON'T QUIT, AND I'VE BEEN IN A HAZE FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH WHICH SEEMS TO BE DRAGGING ON AND ON. FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, I'VE ONLY HAD ALLERGIES LIKE THIS ONCE EVERY YEAR AND A HALF THAT'S HOW STRONG MY BODY USUALLY IS. THAT DEVIL'S ALLERGY WASN'T ABLE TO GET ME FOR 2 YEARS, BUT WHEN IT FINALLY DID IT STUCK AROUND FOR 3 MONTHS AND RELISHED EVERY MINUTE IT GOT TO TORTURE ME. I THINK WHAT PROBABLY SEQUESTER IT ON BEING MY GUE HOME IN THE GROW FOR 25 MINUTES AFTER HAVING STAYED UP DRINKING LATE INTO THE NIGHT WITH MY PRODUCER. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LAST YEAR, MY ROOM WAS WARM SO I WENT OUT AND LAY IN THE PASTURE EVEN THOUGH IT WAS WINTER AT THE TIME. BUT I LOST TRACK OF TIME AND GOT SICK AFTERWARDS. MY ALLERGY MEDICINE IS DOING NOTHING TO RID ME OF THIS DEVIL'S ALLERGY. IT WON'T WORK! AT ALL! FIRST I TRIED TAKING COLD MEDICINE FOR A WEEK. THAT DIDN'T WORK, SO I TRIED TAKING AN EVEN STRONGER COLD MEDICINE FOR THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, BUT SHOWED NO SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT. I HAD THE THROAT AND NOSE SPECIALIST EXAMINE ME AND MAKE A SPECIAL MEDICINE INJECTION FOR ME. STILL IT HAD NO EFFECT, SO I STARTED TAKING THE EXTRA-STRONG COLD MEDICINE ONCE AGAIN FOR A WEEK, FEELING VERY OUT OF IT, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS COLD MEDICINE, I CONTINUED TO DRINK MAMA

FRANK!
APPROXIMATE MOUNT HEIGHT!

ROOM
GOLDEN HALLWAY

GOLDEN'S
ROOM

②

I'VE LOVED SHINJI HARAOKA'S SINGING FOR A LONG TIME. HIS SOUNDS ARE SO METROPOLITAN, PERSONAL, AND EASY-TO-LISTEN-TO. WHEN I LISTEN TO HIS SOUNDS, I IMAGINE TOKYO. HE STARTED TWENTY-SOMETHING YEARS AGO, AND ONLY A SHORT MONTHS AFTER HIS DEBUT HE SOLD-OUT THE BUDOKAN. AFTER THAT, THOUGH, HE DISAPPEARED. HE CONTINUED TO DO MUSIC, THOUGH, AND IT WAS SURPRISED THAT HE WAS SONGS COLLABORATE WITH ME, WHO HAD BEEN A BIG POP IDOL, A SHORT TIME BEFORE THAT. WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SHINJI HARAOKA WOULD BE PERFORMING FOR FOUR MONTHS, I FELT NOSTALGIC AND HEADED TO THE ATRIUM APARTHEATRE TO SEE HIM. JUST AS I HAD EXPECTED, IT WAS A GREAT, INTIMATE SHOW. I JUST LISTENED TO HIS MUSIC, AND IT STILL SOUNDED FRESH TO ME. I THINK HE TRULY LOVED MUSIC FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART. WHEN I HEARD ONE OF HIS OLDER SONGS, LISTENING TO HIS SOUNDS BROUGHT BACK SO MANY FOND OLD MEMORIES. AS A KID, I KNEW HE HAD TALENT BUT IT WAS AMAZING TO ME THAT EVEN AS AN ADULT HE SOUNDED GREAT. MY FAVORITE SHINJI HARAOKA SONGS: "I SHADOW BOXER" & "TEARS BLUES" & "TIME TRAVEL"
43 SANDY

SHINJI HARAOKA IS AMAZING!

IT TOOK ME, FROM BEG-
NING TO END, 1 MONTH TO
GET OVER THE ALLERGY
ON TOP OF IT ALL, I HAD
TO PREPARE A BOOK OF
LECTURES AND DO TONS
OF STORYBOARD PAGES
WHILE I WAS SICK. I WILL
FEEL SICK EVERY TIME I
THINK ABOUT IT, BUT THAT'S
MY PRICE YOU PAY WHEN
YOU'RE AS LUCKY AS I'VE
BEEN IN MY CAREER

THE
MIRACLE

ISUZUMI KEI - BORN AND RAISED IN
OSAKA PERFECTLY. HE IS A HANDSOME
POP MUSICIAN WITH INCREDIBLE SLEET
TECHNIQUE. IN ADDITION TO SINGING, HE
PLAYS GUITAR, KEYBOARDS, YOU NAME IT
HE INVITES ME OVER TO HIS HOUSE BEHIND
HIS HOUSE AND DOES THINGS LIKE MAKE
ME HIS OWN CHICKEN, COCONUTS. HE EVEN
APPEARED AS A GUEST ON MY SHOW
FOR FOUR HOURS TWICE. RECENTLY, ON
APRIL 3, 2006, A PHOTOGRAPH OF ISUZUMI
SINGING WAS RELEASED. HE WAS
ALSO A GUEST SINGING FOR THE ORIGINAL
T-BOOM PRIZEFEST THE FIVE BUDOKAN
PRIZEFEST.

NOTAKI ANJAM - COMPOSER, MUSICI-
ST, SINGER, WRITER, SAKAMOTO PHASE, OFTEN
CALLED "SAKAMOTO PHASE" AND THINGS
LIKE THAT. HE IS AN OF-AND-ONLINE ARTIST.
AND SONGS FROM HIS FIRST ALBUM LAMP
OF HEAVEN HAVE BEEN USED ON MANY TV
PROGRAMS INCLUDING NINTENDO GAMES
ALBUMS AND THIS WORLD'S MOST
ALSO DOES COMMERCIAL WORK FOR HIS
PROM MANUFACTURER BENTLEY, TOYOTA
VIX, AND TOTO STREAM BATH. IN FACT,
SUNAMOTO SONG HE RELEASED HIS SECOND
ALBUM ANJAMORE WHICH WAS AN UNEXPECTED
LIVE PERFORMANCE AS A PERSON HE'S
PRETTY OUT THERE!

MY ARTIST
FRIENDS!

NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, WHEN I ADVERTISED ON THE JACO'S COMPANY ASSISTANT CLUED HOME PAGE THAT I WAS
LOOKING FOR MAMA ARTIST INTERAPPROPRIATE. I GOT TONS OF RESPONSES FROM PEOPLE ALL OVER.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT. I HEARD FROM PEOPLE RANGING FROM 20 YEAR-OLD TO 46 YEAR-OLDS.
FROM STUDENTS TO PROFESSIONAL. WE EVENTUALLY CHOSE TWO OF THE APPLICANTS TO JOIN OUR TEAM.
ACTUALLY THE TWO PEOPLE WE CHOSE WERE GOOD FRIENDS WHO BOTH ATTENDED THE SAME ARTISTS'
COLLAGE IN GAMA PERFECTURE. THE THING IS, ALTHOUGH THEY BOTH HAD APPLIED INDIVIDUALLY THEY BOTH
HAPPENED TO BE CHOICE FROM AMONG SO MANY OTHER APPLICANTS! ONE CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT SUCH A
THING WAS MEANT TO BE. HELEN KELLER HERSELF WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOCKED! THEY BOTH LIVE NEXT-DOOR
TO EACH OTHER IN THE SAME APARTMENT. EVEN THE SLEEPERS THEY WAKE TO WORK ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.
I'VE STARTED TO THINK THAT THEY MAY BE GOING JUST A LITTLE TOO FAR. I'VE SECRETLY BEEN REFERRING
TO THE TWO OF THEM AS "THE M" BECAUSE TOGETHER THEY'RE LIKE THE DOUBLE LETTERS OF THE LETTER M.
THEY'VE BEEN WORKING WITH ME SINCE APRIL. I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT OF GUIDANCE, SO I'VE
STARTED TO STOP LOOKING AT APPLICATIONS FOR A WHILE. BUT I'LL BE LOOKING FOR NEW ARTISTS AFTER THEY
GRADUATE NEXT FALL. SO PLEASE CHECK BACK THEN.

● ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PAGE'S MISTAKE: FIRST, I THERE'S A MARK ON THE HALLWAY. 2) THE OCTOPUS ROOMS ON THE HALL-
WAY. 3) MOTHERS' MISTAKE. 4) THERE ARE TWO PAGES OF CHANGES ON THE HALLWAY. 5) THERE IS A DOOR IN THE HALL
STAYING OUT THE SIDE OF THE JUDGE. 6) THE MARK OF THE PERSON ON TOP OF THE JUDGE IS BACKWARDS. 7) THE STAIRS
ARE ALSO ONE BELOW. 8) THE LETTERS THAT ARE TO THE LOWER-LEFT OF THE JUDGE ARE CORRECT. 9) THE LETTERS IN THE
UPPER-LEFT ARE ALSO CORRECT. 10) THE UPPER-LEFT DOORWAY IS WRONG. 11) THERE ARE THREE TEETH STICKING OUT
FROM THE "M" MARK ON LOWER-LEFT FRONT PAGE.

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